Career Decisions in an AI World

Big Dreams Little Steps

Name _____ Class / period _____ Date _____

Explore job market trends, compare three careers, and investigate how AI may change the work. Use your findings to choose one career to explore and one practical next step.

1 Explore the changing world of work

Open the World Economic Forum job trends chart

Use the 2025 report graphic showing the fastest growing and declining jobs. These are global employer expectations, not guarantees for individual careers. You may still explore a career on the declining list.

Report year: _____ Projection period: _____ to _____

a. Name one growing job and one declining job.

_____

b. What surprises you? What question would you like to investigate during your career research?

_____

_____

2 Identify your priorities

a. List your three most important job priorities, such as income, schedule, location, creativity, or helping others.

_____

b. Name a strength or interest you want to use at work and one limit on your training time or money.

_____

Resources for your career research

Resource	How to use it
My Next Move	Explore occupations, interests, tasks, and skills. Select three specific job titles.
BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook	Use Summary, How to Become One, Pay, and Job Outlook to complete page 2.

The first two resource names are clickable. Compare occupations such as electrician or registered nurse, rather than college majors. If you have chosen a college, explore careers it can prepare you for. CTE students may compare jobs within or across pathways.

Use short phrases in tables and complete sentences in reflections. Type in the blank spaces or write on a printed copy. If information is unavailable, write "not found" and explain.

3 Compare three career options

Use the same national BLS data source for all three careers. Record each profile's exact title. Add your own judgments about fit and tradeoffs, supported by the working conditions you research.

Research item	Career A	Career B	Career C
Specific occupation title			
One typical work task			
Entry route and length Degree, certificate, apprenticeship, or other training			
Median annual pay and data year Monetary benefit			
Projected employment change Percent AND start and end years			
Average annual openings Include the projection years			
Direct monetary costs Program name, tuition / fees, and cost period			
Nonmonetary cost or tradeoff Time, schedule, stress, or location			
Nonmonetary benefit Interest, flexibility, purpose, or working conditions			

Median pay is the midpoint of earnings, not a promised starting salary. Growth is the change in total employment; annual openings also include replacing workers who leave. A declining occupation can still have openings.

For training costs, label whether the figure is per year, per term, or for the full program. If paid training is available, note it. Do not compare an annual cost with a full-program cost as if they were the same.

Sources for your evidence

For each career, record the BLS profile title and the training provider page title. Include URLs in a digital copy and your access date. Add any other source used.

Career A sources and access date: _____

Career B sources and access date: _____

Career C sources and access date: _____

4 Investigate how AI may change the work

Focus on one of your three careers

Selected occupation: _____

a. Revisit the job trends chart from page 1. Connect one trend to your career research. What skill might you need, and what evidence supports your thinking?

_____

_____

_____

b. Use My Next Move to identify two actual tasks. For each task, predict how AI could help a worker or automate part of the task. Then explain what the person would still need to do.

Actual task from the profile	Possible AI assistance or automation	Human skill or responsibility still needed

These are your predictions unless you find evidence of current use. AI exposure describes tasks technology could affect; it does not directly predict whether the occupation will grow or shrink.

c. Find one example of current AI use in this field from a professional association, employer, or research organization. Describe the example. Record the organization, page title, URL, and date accessed.

_____

_____

_____

d. Using that evidence, which prediction in your table is better supported? What remains uncertain? Explain one reason a global job trend cannot guarantee your career outcome.

_____

_____

_____

Research rule: Use original sources for facts. If you use an AI tool to brainstorm, verify its claims and links. Your task analysis and career decision should reflect your own reasoning.

5 Make a decision and take a small step

Use your priorities and research to make a provisional choice. You are choosing what to explore next; your plans can change as you learn more.

Apply the economic ideas

Scarcity: limited time, money, and other resources. Tradeoff: what you gain and give up. Opportunity cost: the value of the next-best alternative you give up. Net benefit: total benefits minus total costs, including the value you place on nonmonetary factors.

a. Rank your options. First choice: _____ Second: _____ Third: _____
Which scarce resource most affects your choice, and how?

_____

_____

b. Why does your first choice offer the greatest net benefit to you? Use at least two research findings and one personal priority. Explain one meaningful cost or tradeoff.

_____

_____

_____

c. If you pursue your first choice, what is your next-best alternative? Describe the benefit you would give up by passing on that alternative. Keep direct tuition or training expenses in the cost comparison on page 2.

_____

_____

d. How do the job outlook and your AI research affect your plan? Identify one skill you would build to remain adaptable.

_____

_____

Choose your next step

Pick one action you can complete within two weeks: interview a worker, visit a program, meet a counselor, try a career task, or practice a relevant skill.

My specific action: _____

Person or resource I will use: _____

Complete by: _____ Evidence I completed it: _____

What question will this step help you answer before you spend more time or money?

_____

_____

Before submitting: Check that you included three careers, source titles and dates, pay and projection years, costs and benefits, an evidence-based AI analysis, and a specific next step.