

Who Earns More?

Adapted from *Earning Power*,

A Career Development Facilitator training activity, author unknown

Objective: To develop skill in using labor market databases to find salaries for a variety of occupations.

Supplies:

- Internet Access
- Who Earns More worksheet – duplicated or provided electronically
- Writing utensil (pen, pencil)
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Procedure

- Activity can be done in pairs, or by individually.
- Provide participants a list of occupations to investigate.
- Participants use the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or O*Net website to collect information about the earning power of each occupation on their list.
- Prior to conducting the on-line investigation, participants must predict – by rank order – the earning power of the occupations listed.
- Before starting, establish parameters for collecting information – will the salary identified be based on average earnings, a particular labor market area or geographic region, etc.

Process Out:

- Share results. Were the predictions correct? Which occupations were surprises – the earning power was either higher or lower than predicted/expected.
- Encourage participants to discuss the ease of navigation of the website that was used to collect data.

Extensions of Activity

- Have student select a career(s) of interest and research the earning potential for that occupation
- Compare earning potential of several careers – based on personal interest – and use additional information about these careers to further narrow the list of careers to consider
- Conduct local investigation, through phone interview, email, or some other means to determine if salary data is accurate for local geographic area
- Identify factors that impact earning power such as cost of living for a geographic area

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For each of the job titles named below, first predict – in rank order – which occupation (in Column A, B or C) has the greatest earning power. Then use the Occupational Outlook Handbook - <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm> , or the O*Net website - <http://online.onetcenter.org/> to determine the earning power of these same occupations. Use the same website for all of your research.

Predict the earning power of the three occupations in one row (A, B, or C) – In rank order, make your prediction – highest to lowest – left to right	Occupation A	Occupation B	Occupation C
	Statistician	Forester	Meteorologist
	Building Inspector	Middle School Principal	Hospital Administrator
	Physical Therapist	Physician’s Assistant	Dental Hygienist
	Bartender	Mail Carrier	Secondary School Teacher
	Architect	Attorney	Urban Planner
	Commercial Airline Pilot	TV New Anchor	Veterinarian
	File Clerk	Firefighter	Registered Nurse
	Hotel Manager	Insurance Underwriter	Retail Buyer
	Minister	Park Ranger	Auto Mechanic
	Accountant	Graphic Designer	College Professor