

relevance

CAREER OPTIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE 2021



A BRAVE NEW WORLD

Discussion
Guide

Relevance 2021: A Brave New World

This guide is designed with teachers and students in mind but can be used by anyone who is discovering what this year's edition of *Relevance* offers. Teachers, please tailor this document to meet the needs of your unique classes.

Introduction

On page 5, readers are introduced to five tips of how to take advantage of opportunities to prepare for future career paths. What are the five tips, and what does each one mean to you?

Peer Profiles: (Options A, B, & C. Teachers, please choose which options best suits your class!)

In *Relevance 2021*, you will find eight interviews with young professionals from Saskatchewan (pages 6, 10, 14, 18, 37, 38, 42, 44). These young workers are not that far removed from being a high school student like you are now.

Option A

After reading through the eight *Peer Profiles*, use a different profile to respond to each question:

- 1) Which person had the most unique career path? Briefly describe this career journey.
- 2) What are the **three** pieces of advice that you find the most helpful? From three separate profiles, list:
 - a. The person's name
 - b. The advice they give
 - c. Why you find this advice helpful and/or interesting.
- 3)
 - a. If you were an employer, which of these people would you hire?
 - b. What qualities make this person a potentially great employee?
- 4)
 - a. Which of these people works in an industry that is most interesting to you?
 - b. What is the industry?
 - c. Why is it interesting to you?
- 5)
 - a. Which of the industries are you least likely to be involved in?
 - b. Why isn't this a good fit for you?

Option B

1. **Nick Crighton, page 6.**
 - a. What makes Nick passionate about his current role?
 - b. Also, Nick mentions that it was tough to connect with university at first. What did he do to feel more at home, and how can you apply that to something you might have to do in your future?
 - c. What is an occupation you would be passionate about, or what is a skill that you would put a lot of effort into developing every day so you can have a successful career?

2. **Noah Rodgerson, page 10.**
 - a. How would you describe Noah's career path in the trades?
 - b. What is the difference between a journeyman and an apprentice? You may need to look this up on another site.
 - c. Noah says that "earning while learning" is an advantage of apprenticeship. What are a couple of reasons why this is positive for him?

3. **Nicole Crump, page 14.** Nicole says, "Say yes to opportunities." What are two ways that this advice has applied to her career journey so far?

4. **Mayra Samaniego, page 18.**
 - a. Mayra discovered her career path by following a skill that motivated her. What was this skill?
 - b. Describe a skill that you possess that you enjoy doing. What occupation or field of work could you apply this skill to?

5. **Dan McCann, page 37.** Dan is a techpreneur—an entrepreneur in the technology field. Before you read this article, it would be good to understand what "Start-ups" and start-up "incubators" are. What are two lessons that stand out to you about Dan's career journey and/or his top soft skills and tips?

6. **Lana Moffat, page 38.** Lana mentions that "no matter what happens in life, everything is temporary" and that she's "not sure where [she'll] end up" even though she's been in the nursing profession for over 12 years.
 - a. How do these thoughts apply to her career journey so far?
 - b. How does this advice apply to being a professional and following a changing career path?

7. **Alain Fafard, page 42.** Alain's current occupation is at VIDO-Intervac, working on vaccine development, but he has had many other jobs before his current position. How would you describe Alain's career path so far, and how do you think all the experiences he has had have made him a successful professional?

8. **Sydney Hamelin, page 44.** Sydney is obviously very passionate about being a chef. Yet, in a previous *Peer Profile*, another person mentions that being a chef was not an occupation that he enjoyed. What makes Sydney passionate about being a chef? What can you learn from these two people's perspectives on one occupation?

Option C

Get into a small group and your teacher will assign you each one of the *Peer Profile* or *Mentor Profile* interviews to research. Read the article and prepare some notes so that you can share what you learned with your class.

Guiding Questions:

- 1) Who is the person being profiled?
 - 2) What is this person's current occupation?
 - 3) What made this person's career path unique?
 - 4) If you were this person's supervisor, what qualities make this person a valuable employee?
 - 5) What advice does this person provide for young people who are beginning their career path?
 - 6) What is one thing that this person's profile makes each of your group members consider?
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Other Articles

1. **Cultural Competence, page 7.** After reading this brief piece, write down your own definition of cultural competence. How would this concept apply to you as an employee? How would it make you a more effective boss?
2. **The Real Amazing Race, page 8.** After reading this article, pick one piece of advice that will apply to your career journey and describe why it seems important to you. Bonus: Click on one of the links and write down what you learn from the site.
3. **Is Your Future in Skilled Trades? page 11.**
 - a. Read through the article and then go look at the SYA site. Explore the benefits of the Sask Youth Apprenticeship program for students, both during and after high school. Write these down or discuss as a class.
 - b. Choose one of the Online Resources links. Once you have explored the site, report back to a group or your class about the advantages of being a part of the program that you read about.

4. **Safety is Your Best Friend on the Job, page 12.** After reading the article, write down your three basic rights in the workplace. Depending on what you've discussed about safety in class prior to the article, check out at least one of the Workplace Safety Resources.

5. **Networking, page 15.**
 - a. What is Networking? (You may look up the definition on the internet).
 - b. As the article implies, networking is often thought of as something only professional business people do. Why is the concept of networking important to students who haven't chosen a career path yet? Consider how meeting people and making a positive impression can have long-term benefits.

6. **Spotlight: Agriculture & Technology, page 16.**
 - a. Give two examples of how technology is impacting farming in Saskatchewan.
 - b. When we think of farming and agriculture, we often only think of a farmer working in her or his field. What are two agriculture-based occupations in this article that help farmers? Perhaps these are roles that you had not considered before reading this article.

7. **How to Finance Your Tomorrow: Scholarships & Awards, page 20.**

Choose 3 scholarships to research:

 - a. Who is the scholarship designed for?
 - b. What are the requirements to apply for that scholarship? (find application form)
 - c. What do they ask you to include in your application form?
 - d. When is the due date for the award application?

8. **What do you want to be? page 36.** Only a few years ago, many of the occupations highlighted in this article did not exist. Choose one occupation from under each of the four headings. Write about what someone (perhaps you!) would find interesting and exciting about this possible career. You may need to follow the resource link under each heading for more information.

9. **Financial Literacy, page 40.** After reading this brief article, write down or discuss how financial literacy is a very important skill for someone who is starting their career journey.

10. **Skills, Skills, Skills! page 46.**
 - a. What is the difference between hard and soft skills? Your teacher may show you more information about these skills on the SIEC's employability page: www.saskatooniec.ca/employability.

- b. Read about the five soft skills that are highlighted in this article. Which one is your greatest strength? How could you work on improving a skill listed in the article that is not one of your strengths?

11. Job Search in a Pandemic, page 50.

- a. What are three pieces of advice in this article that could help you the most when you are looking for work?
 - b. Look at the sites that are listed. Select at least two to check out and then come back together as a class to discuss the ones that were of the most benefit to the group.
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Mentor Profiles: Read the two profiles of these two professionals who are leaders in their industries. Respond to the questions and discuss what you learned with your peers.

Natasha Vandenhurk, page 48.

- a. What are two things that make Natasha passionate about her current role?
- b. Natasha gives several excellent pieces of advice toward the end of the article. What are two pieces of advice that mean the most to you? Describe why these messages are important to you now or in the future.

Nicholas Hennink, page 49.

- a. Nicholas is passionate about his career choice, yet he has faced significant challenges along the way. How has Nicholas overcome the challenges in his career?
 - b. In a small group, have each person choose an occupation (any occupation that you can think of!). Each person will:
 - ✓ Write the occupation down at the top of a page.
 - ✓ On the left side of the page, list 5 realities of the job that would cause stress—these could be seemingly minor stressors and/or significant factors that lead to something as serious as the PTSD that Nicholas encountered.
 - ✓ When you each have your list created, share your work with each other, one-at-a-time. Each person will then offer suggestions of healthy ways that a worker could deal with the stressor in order to be happy, healthy, and successful. Write the suggestions down on the right side of the page.
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2021 Job Chart

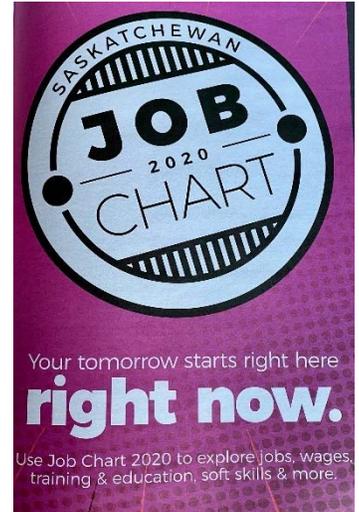
You will find this section on pages 21-35.

Your task is to choose **one** job from **five** of the following sections (you pick the sections):

- Business, Finance and Administration (blue)
- Natural & Applied Science (orange)
- Health (purple)
- Social Science, Education, Government, & Religion (pink)
- Art, Culture, Recreation, & Sport (yellow)
- Sales & Service (peach)
- Trades, Transport, & Equipment Operation (brown)
- Natural Resources, Agriculture, & Related Production (teal)
- Process, Manufacturing, & Utilities (green)

Once you have your jobs selected, put down the following:

- Job title
- What do you do in the job?
- Where you would get educated/training to do the job
- One reason why you think you would personally be good at that job



Next Step: On page 50 there is a list of job search sites. Using a computer or your device, take a look and see what job opportunities are out there for **two** of the jobs you chose. When you find them, identify a skill that each job requires, and describe how this fits your skill-set.

Take this a step further by looking up post-secondary options and details about the type of job on your *myblueprint.ca* account!
