Student Resource 11.3

Writing Assignment: Mental Health Professionals Reference Sheet

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Follow the instructions below to research and write a reference sheet for a mental health professional or collaborative provider. Before you begin to work, look at some of the reference sheets in your notebook and think about what makes them informative, well organized, and interesting. Make sure you read and understand the assessment criteria at the end of before you begin work.

1. Pick a mental health care professional or collaborative provider about whom you would like to create a reference sheet. You may want to choose a specialty that you think is related to your culminating project work. If you would like to use a professional who is not on this list, check with your teacher first. Each member of your group must choose a different professional.
   * Art therapist: <http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Career/122/Art_Therapist/eurl.axd/2111c341d239bd4d996f6d923b667f4f>
   * Chemical dependency counselor: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-and-behavioral-disorder-counselors.htm>
   * Marriage and family therapist: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/mental-health-counselors-and-marriage-and-family-therapists.htm>
   * Music therapist: <http://www.musictherapy.org/about/musictherapy/>
   * Occupational therapist: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm>
   * Psychiatric aide: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/psychiatric-technicians-and-aides.htm>
   * Psychiatrist: <http://healthyminds.org/Main-Topic/What-is-a-Psychiatrist.aspx>
   * Psychologist: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm>
   * Social worker: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm>
2. As you research the mental health professional you have chosen, take notes using the chart at the end of this assignment. Begin your research using the websites above. You may need to go to more than one site to complete your research. Ask your teacher to verify additional sites that you would like to use. Use the following descriptions of each section of the reference sheet to help guide your research.

**A snapshot.** In this section, describe in a paragraph a moment in the daily life of the professional. For an example, refer to the reference sheet for a registered dietetic technician (RDT) in Student Resource 6.5. The first paragraph provides a colorful glimpse into a dietetic technician’s workday. It shows some of the people the dietetic technician works with and the tasks he or she is responsible for. The snapshot should read like a brief story or a scene description.

**Major responsibilities.** In this section write a paragraph that gives an overview of the major responsibilities the professional has. You can include information about where the professional typically works.

**Qualities and skills.** In this section write a paragraph that explains the key qualities and important skills the professional needs to excel at his or her work. For example, if the mental health professional works with patients who are addicts, one quality that this professional may have is compassion. You should also include the average salary in this section.

**What do I need to do to make it happen?** In this section explain in a paragraph the steps that a person who is interested in the career needs to take. For example, what kind of post-high school education is needed? What should the person major in? What licensing or certification is required?

**How can I prepare now?** In this section explain in a paragraph things a person can do in high school to prepare for the career. What are specific courses that are important to take in high school? Is there volunteer work that will help the person prepare?

1. After you have completed your research, review your notes. Once you have a clear idea about what you are going to write in each section, begin to write. Your target audience for the reference sheet is high school students who are interested in a mental health career. Write at least one paragraph for each section. You can refer to the reference sheets in your notebook at any time. As you write, make sure that each paragraph has a main idea and supporting details.
2. When you have completed writing, review your reference sheet and make sure that it meets the assessment criteria below. Make any necessary changes.

Make sure your reference sheet meets or exceeds the following assessment criteria:

* The reference sheet demonstrates an understanding of the roles, responsibilities, qualities, skills, and education requirements of the profession featured.
* The information on the reference sheet is accurate and represents thoughtful research.
* The information on the reference sheet is presented clearly and is geared toward the target audience of high school students who are interested in a mental health career.
* The reference sheet is neat and uses proper spelling and grammar.

Notes about the mental health professional I am researching

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| --- |
| Pathway: |
| A snapshot |
| Major responsibilities |
| Qualities and skills people who pursue this professional need |
| Steps high school students need to take to get into this career |
| Things a high school student can do now to prepare for this career |

Student Resource 11.4

Poster Assignment: Mental Health Professionals

Student Names:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Follow the instructions below to create a poster that compares four mental health professionals. Make sure you read and understand the assessment criteria at the end of before you begin work.

1. Your poster will compare the four mental health professions that your group members wrote reference sheets about. Imagine that your poster will be displayed at a job fair for high schoolers who are interested in a career in mental health. Your target audience is people who are already interested in mental health but are seeking a more detailed understanding of how various mental health careers are similar and different.
2. Begin by discussing in your group what all four careers have in common. Construct a statement or phrase that expresses the similarities of the four careers. Use this statement as the heading of your poster. Here are two examples: “Working Effectively with Crisis Situations” or “Mental Health Workers and Families.”
3. Then go over the information that you will feature on your poster. Your poster should compare all of the following elements:
   * Education and training required
   * Daily duties and tasks
   * Overall roles and responsibilities
   * Salary
   * Personal qualities and characteristics needed
4. Discuss in your group how you will present the information on your poster. The information should be organized in a logical and clear way. Also, your poster should be visually interesting. Use diagrams, charts, and illustrations appropriately.
5. Decide what tasks need to be accomplished to create your poster, and then decide who is going to do which tasks. Once you have a clear idea about who in your group is doing what, get to work creating your poster.
6. When you have completed your poster, go over it as a group and make sure that it meets the assessment criteria below. Make any necessary changes.

Make sure your poster meets or exceeds the following assessment criteria:

* The poster demonstrates an understanding of how key elements of four mental health professions compare. All information is clear and accurate and geared toward the target audience.
* The information on the poster is presented in a logical, organized way. It draws attention to any important similarities or differences between the professions, and it features a heading that highlights what the professions have in common.
* The poster is visually interesting and uses graphs, charts, and illustrations effectively to convey information.
* The poster is neat and uses proper spelling and grammar.