Fitzgerald

Career Paragraph - Considering Both the Good and the Bad

Now that our research has provided us with the key information on our career that we chose to convey to our audience of students at West, we are going to use it to write a claim paragraph.

**Prompt**

* Using factual information displayed on the poster as evidence, discuss both the attractive and negative aspects of the career you researched.

**Structure**

* **Topic Sentence**
  + Responds to the prompt, using the prompt’s wording
  + States the Main Idea (Claim)
  + A separate sentence - not combined with the sentence that introduces first area of support
* **Sentence introducing first area of support** - i.e. the career has attractive aspects
  + **Sentences of development** - **At least two attractive aspects** of the career found in information on poster are stated.
    - Background information needed to understand each fact is provided.
    - Explanation of why each fact is seen as positive is provided.
* **Sentence introducing second area of support** - i.e. the career has negative aspects
  + **Sentences of development - At least two negative aspects** of the career  found in information on poster are stated.
    - Background information needed to understand each fact is provided
    - Explanation of why each fact is seen as so positive is provided.
* Sentence conveying **a concluding thought that does not repeat**!!!

**Audience**

* People considering this career

**Process Checklist**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Thursday | * Examine model provided. |
|  | Due Friday -  End of Hour | * Facts gathered from poster * Completed planning chart |
|  | Due Tuesday - Beginning of Hour | * Completed graphic organizer |
|  | Due Tuesday -  End of Hour | * Rough Draft following structure of graphic organizer |
|  | Due Wednesday -  End of Hour | * Edited Rough Draft |
|  | Due Thursday -  End of Hour | * Completed final draft |

**Model Provided - See Pages that Follow**

* Research Information used for Model - Sound Technician
* Planning Chart - created using this information.
* Model Paragraph - Structure labeled in left column

Fitzgerald

Research Information used for Model

Information used for Positive Aspect - Bold and Underlined, Information used for Negative Aspect - just Underlined

**Career - Sound Technician**

**Job Outlook**

* 8% growth  - average
* Number of Jobs in 2016 - 134,300
* Number of new jobs expected by 2026 - 10,700

**Core Tasks**

* Handle mechanical, hand, and radio microphones during film and television shoots
* Attach microphones to people during TV and radio interviews and monitor the sound
* Monitor sound quality from microphones during productions and live performances
* Record sound effects and atmosphere tracks

**Attributes & Abilities**

* Detail-oriented
* Creative
* Enjoy working with electronics
* A good “ear”
* Work well as part of a team

**Sample Career Path**

Intern

* **Earnings - Unpaid**
* Requirements - Some formal training in sound, motivation
* Responsibilities - gophering; getting coffee, cleaning equipment and the work area, observing the sound technicians

Assistant Sound Technician

* **Earnings - Unpaid to minimum wage**
* Requirements - experience as an intern, some industry knowledge
* Responsibilities - transporting sound equipment to worksites, setting up equipment, testing microphones or soundboards under the supervision of a sound technician, doing some stage management

Sound Technician

* **Earnings - $25,ooo to $50,000 per year**
* Requirements - demonstrated ability and skill in all aspects of sound production, highly developed ear for recognizing sound quality
* Responsibilities - using a mixing desk, repairing broken sound equipment, testing sound quality, collecting sound for live and broadcast audiences

Senior Sound Technician

* Earnings - $40,000 to **$98,000 per year**
* Requirements - several years of experience as a sound technician, **ability to work on a variety of recording projects, such as concerts, television productions, films, and interviews**
* Responsibilities - supervising a team of sound technicians, collecting and mixing sound for major projects, producing a final version of a soundtrack, choosing and maintaining sound systems for clients

Education required - **no required education but need proof of some training to get basic skills and knowledge needed**

* associate’s degree (2 years), certification from private vocational school program, individual classes
  + recording arts, broadcasting, film and radio production, audio engineering, electronics
* on-the-job experience - learning by working for a skilled sound technician
  + (Also helps build a network of contacts in the industry)
* work with own equipment to
  + Develop “an ear”
  + Build a portfolio of recorded sound to demonstrate skill level

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Schools in Michigan** | Setting | Total Students | Student-Faculty Ratio | Graduation Rate | Entrance Difficulty |
| Grand Rapids Community College | Urban | 14,464 | 21:1 | **NA** | Non-competitive |
| Schoolcraft College | Suburban | 11,339 | 24:1 | **NA** | Non-competitive |
| Michigan Technological University | Small Town | 7,270 | 12:1 | 67% | Moderately Difficult |

Fitzgerald

Model - Career Paragraph - Considering Both the Good and the Bad

Model of Planning Chart  - Gathering Information from Poster

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Career** - Sound Technician | |
| **Attractive aspects of the job**  **from my research** | **Explanation of Why Positive** |
| $98,000 per year | * more than many engineers and teachers make |
| ability to work on a variety of recording projects, such as concerts, television productions, films, and interview | * very glamorous to work with stars of the recording industry or film and t.v. |
| no required education | * save the cost of expensive college tuition |
| **Negative aspects of the job**  **From my research** | **Explanation of Why Negative** |
| no required education but need proof of some training to get basic skills and knowledge needed | * if don't go to college, where would a person get the required training, skills, knowledge? * it is not clear how one would get an internship * might be easier to just have a program to sign up for, even if you do have to pay |
| low pay of first three levels of career path - First Level - unpaid, Second level - unpaid to minimum wage, Third level - $25,000 to $50,000 | * it is not clear how long one would have to work as an unpaid intern * how could a person afford rent, especially in a big city like New York or Los Angeles if he or she were only paid minimum wage? * A full sound engineer doesn't make much, $50,000 top * If $98,000 is only made by the top level of senior sound engineers, how many really reach this level? |
| graduation rate not reported for two of the three colleges in Michigan that provide training | * if the colleges don't report a graduation rate, maybe this means students are not graduating and only taking a few classes * are the students giving up? |

**Structure** **Model Paragraph**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic Sentence**   * Respond to prompt, using prompt’s wording * State Main Idea/Claim * A separate sentence - not combined with sentence that introduces first area of support   **Sentence introducing first area of  support** - i.e. career has attractive aspects  Sentences of development - in logical order   * **One attractive aspect** of the career  found in information on poster stated   + **Background** information needed to understand each  fact provided   + **Explanation** of why each fact is seen as so positive provided * **A second attractive aspect** of the career  found in information on poster stated   + **Background** information needed to understand each  fact provided   + **Explanation** of why each fact is seen as so positive provided   **Sentence introducing second area of support** - i.e. career has negative aspects  Sentences of development - in logical order   * **One negative aspect** of the career  found in information on poster stated   + **Background** information needed to understand each  fact provided   + **Explanation** of why each fact is seen as so positive provided * **A second negative aspect** of the career  found in information on poster stated   + **Background** information needed to understand each  fact provided   + **Explanation** of why each fact is seen as so positive provided     Sentence conveying **a concluding thought that does not repeat**!!! | People might be attracted to the career of being a sound technician because they dream of traveling around the world setting up the sound equipment at the concerts of their favorite band. **The career does have some very positive aspects, but it has some negative aspects one should consider as well.** **On the positive side it seems like a glamorous job that pays well and is easy to prepare for.** Working as part of the team that creates recording projects, such as concerts, television productions, and films is very glamorous. One can imagine hanging out with George Clooney in some exotic location, testing the sound to make sure it is just right in his next film. The top pay of $98,000 also is not too shabby. It is more than automobile engineers and teachers make. This is an especially attractive salary considering no education is required to become a sound engineer. Most engineers and teachers have to spend at least four years getting a Bachelor’s degree and often go on to get a Master’s degree. So a sound engineer would save time and money by not needing a formal education. **But being a sound engineer also has some negative aspects that should be considered before one commits to the career.** While it is true no formal education is required, sometimes it is easier to just find a program at a college and sign up than educate one’s self. To get a job as a sound engineer one still needs to find a way to learn all the basic skills and knowledge needed, and it is not clear how to go about doing this. Most sound engineers start as unpaid interns, doing anything that needs doing on a production just to learn by watching a sound engineer work. How can an intern learn if he is kept busy doing a bunch of odd jobs? It also seems like it would be difficult to find a place as an intern if one doesn’t know someone in the business. The $98,000 salary sounds great, but both the internship and the beginning assistant sound technician can be unpaid or at the most get minimum wage, and even a fully qualified sound technician only makes $50,000. Most sound technicians probably never get to the level of a senior sound technician. Even if one does enter a program at a college it looks like many never graduate, as two of the three colleges that have programs in Michigan report no graduation rate. So if the career doesn’t work out, the unsuccessful sound technician would then be left with no education of any kind to fall back on. **Every job has both good and bad aspects, so someone thinking of a career should do research to discover both and should only start a career she would love so much that the bad aspects would not bother her, at least not too much.** |

Fitzgerald

Model - Career Paragraph - Considering Both the Good and the Bad

Model of Planning Chart  - Gathering Information from Poster

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Career** - Sound Technician | |
| **Attractive aspects of the job**  **from my research** | **Explanation of Why Positive** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Negative aspects of the job**  **From my research** | **Explanation of Why Negative** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |