

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

# WHEN I GROW UP

*Career Lessons and Activities  
for Grades 9-12*



  
Workforce Solutions

What is your

# DREAM JOB?

(fill in your dream job here)

1a

Most jobs either involve creating, designing or building things OR working with people on processes and projects. Which do you prefer?

1b

Would you rather work with  things or  people? Does your dream job work with  things or  people?

1c

Using the resources found at [wrksolutions.com/BLS1](http://wrksolutions.com/BLS1) and [wrksolutions.com/BLS2](http://wrksolutions.com/BLS2), list other jobs that also work with your choice of things or people.

2a

How much **money** are you willing to invest to pursue your dream job? Consider visiting [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com) for help on how much you might need. Check out the Occupational Outlook Handbook to get an idea of how much time it will take to prepare for this job.

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

2b

How much **money and time** are you willing to invest to pursue your dream job?

From where will you get the money you need?



2c

## What is your dream college?

What college program will train you for this job?

How much does it cost?

How long does it take?

Do a basic Internet search to find other colleges that offer programs in your area of interest.

Find at least three and list them below with the cost and length of program:

3a

What will your life look like when you have achieved your **life goals?**

3b

Will you own a house? What type of car will you drive?

3b

Will you be married?  
Will you have children?

3c

What does your ideal future lifestyle look like? What stuff will you have when **you are successful?**



4a

Some jobs require travel to other cities, states, or countries. If you don't mind travel for work, how much of your monthly time (including time at home) would you be willing to devote to travel?

Will your dream job and college let you have your desired lifestyle?  YES  NO

What might be some challenges?

4b

Do you want to **travel for work?**

YES  NO

Check the box below to indicate how much you would be willing to travel.

How can you overcome some of these challenges? What is your plan?

- 20%    40%    60%    80%    100%

4c

**How much travel** is required for your dream job?

If you need help, visit [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com) and look at job descriptions for this position.

Research other jobs that match your desire to travel.  
List those jobs here.



# Where do you want to work?

5a

Would you move to another place to work in a better job? If so, where?

5b

HOUSTON  TEXAS  USA  OVERSEAS  ANYWHERE

Where does your dream job exist?

If you need help finding out what employment in your occupation looks like where you want to work, check out [bls.gov/oes/charts.htm](http://bls.gov/oes/charts.htm)

5c

Is your dream job found where you want to live?

YES  NO

6a

## How do you want to spend your days?

Fill in the percentage amounts below to represent how much time you want to spend with Work, Fun, Family, and Sleep in a 24-hour day. Be sure the four amounts total 100%.

Work	%	Fun	%	Family	%	Sleep	%
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6b

How many hours are spent working each day in your chosen profession?

6c

List other job options that might allow you to devote the time you wish to each part of your day.

Does this match your desired time spent at work?

YES  NO

What are some challenges to obtaining your dream job?

What are two things you can do now to start overcoming these challenges?

What are other jobs related to your skills, interests, and values?

What are some companies that hire for your dream job and these other occupations?

What endorsement program should you pursue in high school?

What colleges offer a program that builds off your high school education?

What is your next career move after you land your dream job? What is the job title? How will your duties change?

## Review Your Next Steps



# SOCIAL MEDIA PIT STOP

Recruiters and employers are more and more concerned with the Internet presence of their workforce. Hundreds of recruiters were surveyed about the information shared by individuals via social media. They were asked to share what they viewed as positive or negative and how severely the negative items might offend and effect an individual's chance at employment. We summarized this in the activity below.

*How well would your Internet presence represent your future employer?*

Pull up one of your social media news feeds (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram work best!) and review the items you have posted. If the content matches an item below, check that topic. For example, if you posted a picture of your school's football team winning a game, you would circle "Groups, Teams, Sports, & Clubs" in Column B. Once you have looked at no less than 10 posts, review your circles. If you have at least one circle in the column, award or remove the points stated at the top of the column. Use the key at the bottom of the page to see how recruiters might view your chance at employment based on your social media presence.



POSITIVE SHARING		NEGATIVE SHARING			
Column A +3 pts	Column B +3 pts	Column C -1 pt	Column D -2 pts	Column E -3 pts	Column F -4 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Work Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Work-related Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Groups, Teams, Sports, & Clubs <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> College & Career Goals	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> News Item Opinions	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Guns <input type="checkbox"/> Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Profanity <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling or Grammar Errors <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Job or School Talk	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Sex <input type="checkbox"/> "Flaming" by Name

Social Media App/Site:

Your score:

- 6 pts      Your social media presence is spotless — keep actively managing your public perception!
- 3 to 5 pts      You have some blemishes but also share good news — minor cleanup needed.
- 0 to 2 pts      While you share good info about yourself, it may be tarnished by some oversharing.
- 1 to -3 pts      The bad outweighs the good! Your overall perception is most likely negative. Clean up!
- 4 to -7 pts      NOT GOOD. You share way too many items that can harm your employment outlook.
- 8 to -10 pts      You share it ALL and it's rarely good. This is definitely working against you. DO OVER!



## VALUES

Your values are the things that are most important to you when you make decisions about your life. For work, maybe it is important that you make lots of money. Or, maybe you want to do a job that helps people. Answer these questions to begin figuring out your values. Also, completing the Lifestyle Inventory (pp. 2-4) and visiting [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com) will help reveal some additional values.

1. I feel good about myself when
2. I like people who are able to
3. I will feel successful in my life when I
4. The best way I can contribute to society is by



# DEFINE YOUR VISION

*Values, Interests, Skills*

## INTERESTS

Your interests are the things you want to learn about and do. It's important to choose a career that has some of your interests built into your daily activities. This helps motivate you to do a good job and challenge yourself. Answer these questions to explore your interests.

1. What are your favorite subjects to study in school and why?
2. What are your favorite topics to talk about with friends?
3. What are your hobbies? What is enjoyable about them?
4. What is the coolest job you know about or can imagine? What do you like about it?
5. A large majority of high-paying jobs require at least one year of postsecondary education (aka college). What college would you like to attend? Why?
6. Does anything scare you about college? If so, what? This will help define your priorities and may help guide you to resources that can assist.

**Employability (or “Soft”) skills** are attributes that are difficult to measure with a rating but are essential to workplace success. For example, being friendly and able to work with others is an employability skill employers consistently ask for in their workforce.

**A hard skill** is an ability that one can measure with a number with consistent accuracy. Being able to use a drill is a hard skill. If you are asked to drill a hole in the center of a board, someone could check your accuracy and define your success by how well you drilled the hole near the center.

Answer these questions to help identify some of your skills. Once you are done, circle the soft skills and underline the hard skills.

1. Good friends count on each other for many things.  
What do your friends count on you for or what do they often COMPLIMENT you about? (Not counting looks)
2. What PRAISE or acknowledgment have you gotten from your teachers?
3. Identify a person you admire. Name THREE QUALITIES or characteristics in this person that you most respect or admire. Make a star next to the qualities you also have.
4. Describe something you DESIGNED, CREATED, built, made, or fixed up, that gave you a strong sense of satisfaction. Tell why you feel good about it.

*Once you have thought about your vISion, visit [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org) and click on the “Tell us What You Like” option to do a quick activity to see some jobs that might be right up your alley.*

## CONNECTING YOUR VISION TO YOUR FUTURE CAREER

List a job you are interested in pursuing (this can be your dream job or a new job you are considering):

What skills do you need to do this job well? (Circle any you currently have, if even a little bit)

Which of your interests does this job match?

How does this job match your values?

List other jobs that might also have these values, interests, and skills.  
Check out the High-Skill High-Growth jobs list for some ideas.



# RESUMES AND APPLICATIONS

**JANE DOE**

12 Sunny Avenue, Houston, Texas 77777

713-555-5555 Jane.doe@yahoo.com

## OBJECTIVE

Seeking admission to Florida University where I can cultivate my passion for helping children as I pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

## EDUCATION

Shine High School – currently enrolled, expected graduation June 2015  
Public Services Endorsement: Education

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Senior Year 2014–2015

- Nominated Class Secretary
- Maintained 3.8 GPA
- Published 4 articles on school web site
- Member of Girl's Varsity Basketball Team
- Initiated student project providing student mentors to incoming freshmen

### Junior Year 2013–2014

- Member National Honor Society
- Maintained 3.75 GPA
- Top of class in English and Computer Skills
- Raised over \$1,000 for Band Fundraising project

## PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Diligent and goal oriented
- Friendly and outgoing
- Great with children

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Timberwolf Middle School, Afterschool Volunteer Tutor

- Assist approximately 20 students in 6th and 7th grade with homework and projects in science, math, history, and English courses two times a week

### ABC Machining, Inc., Intern

- Work 20 hours each week in Human Resources & Training
- Company builds pipeline components for upstream oil and gas companies and does annual business of \$140 million
- Capstone project: working with senior training staff, building curriculum to train field staff on installation of new components of an offshore vessel

## EDUCATION

- If still enrolled, put your projected graduation date

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Examples: Groups, Clubs, Teams, Awards, GPA, Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll
- Commonly broken out by each school year for college admission and scholarships

## PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- A few key terms related to the job / program you are trying to get into

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- This section can include both paid work experience and volunteer work
- Try to quantify (include numbers) to explain

## CONTACT INFORMATION

(always at the top)

- Use your legal name, not a nickname
- Include a phone number where the employer can leave a message; be sure your voicemail message sounds professional; do not have “music” for the caller to listen to; return all calls ASAP but always within 24 hours
- Be sure your e-mail address sounds professional: first and last name when possible, try to avoid numbers that could be viewed as age, year of birth, year of graduation, etc.

## SUMMARY STATEMENT

(always immediately following the contact info)

- Title of position or program being applied for
- Three sentences or less describing why you are the right person for the job / program

## HELPFUL APPLICATION BUILDING TIPS

- Be thorough, neat, and accurate; spelling and handwriting are important
- Be sure to read and follow all directions; do not leave any spaces blank
- It's important to memorize all nine digits of your social security number
- Be sure to answer all questions
- Position: Use actual job titles for that organization, do not say Open or Any
- Date you can start: Don't use ASAP, Immediately, Now; write the actual date you can begin working
- Salary Desired: Typically minimum wage for workers without much experience
- If someone who works for the company told you about the job, list their first and last name in the appropriate space asking who referred you to the company
- If asked whether your current employer may be contacted, this is a request for a reference from your employer. You should inform your current employer you are applying for other jobs if you plan to say “Yes”
- Some applications ask for the names, addresses, and phone numbers of schools you have attended, so you will want to know what they are
- If you have taken any vocational classes, list those skills under education if they resulted in a certificate or other credential
- When listing your employment history, be sure to use reverse chronological order – most recent first
- Past duties should demonstrate skills relevant to the job for which you are applying
- Reason for Leaving should not be worded negatively
- Ask permission before using someone as a reference; find out what contact information they would like you to use
- Teachers, coaches, and people you have done volunteer work for can be good references
- References should not be family members or friends. Occasionally, a personal reference is requested. Ideally, a friend who can speak to your skills and successes is the best choice
- An application is a legal document, don't forget to sign it

Complete a sample Master Application that you can print and save for future use at [wrksolutions.com/masterapp](http://wrksolutions.com/masterapp)



# INTERVIEWING & THE POWER OF 30



## 30-SECOND COMMERCIAL

What would you say if you were about to interview for a job and you ended up meeting the CEO of the company on the elevator ride up to the office? If you have worked on identifying your Values, Interests, and Skills, you should have an idea of what you might include.

However, you can't list everything all at once! People looking for a job are often asked to summarize their experience and interests in a short speech. Sometimes this is called an "elevator speech" or "30-second commercial" because it is the short time recruiters or other hiring managers allow applicants to "sell" themselves before their attention is distracted or disinterest occurs.

Practice your own 30-second commercial in a mirror or with a partner and make sure you include the following details:

- Information about your education (what you have completed and where you want to go)
- At least one notable accomplishment related to the job you might want
- Three unique skills
- Details on what would make you a good match for this ideal job

## INTERVIEWING TIPS

- The most frequently asked question in an interview is "Can you tell me a little about yourself?" – this is a great time to use your commercial
- Practice 30-second responses that summarize strengths and answer standard interview questions

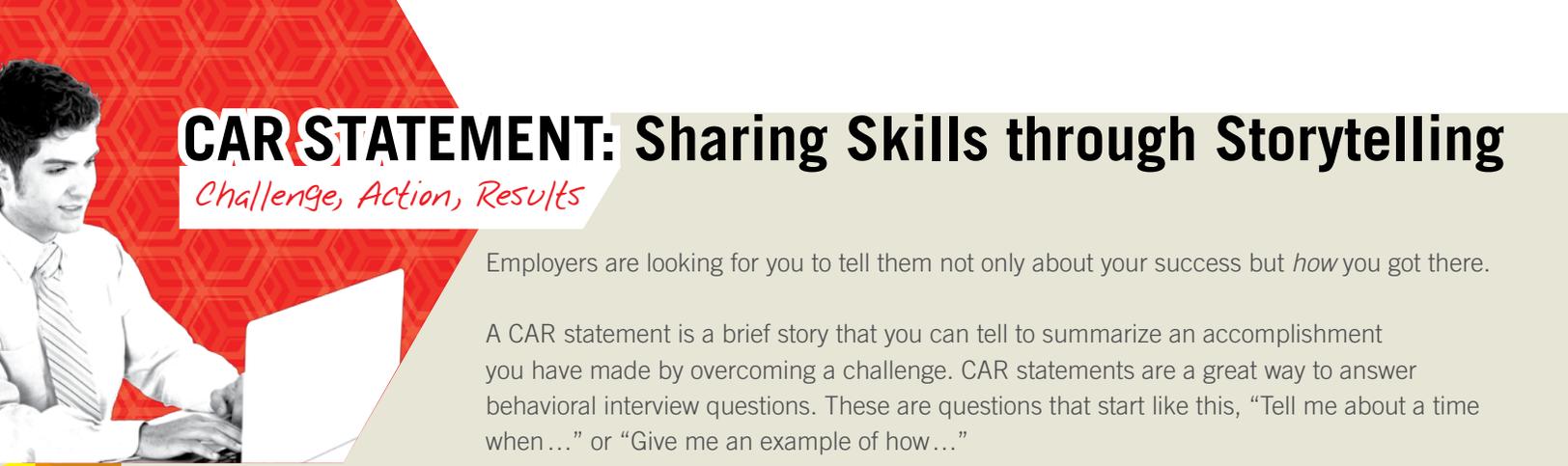
- Professional attire is not attire you wear to go out at night with friends
- Cover tattoos and piercings; have professional attire and conservative styling
- For more tips on what to wear for interviews, see page 12

- Arrive at least 15 minutes early for an interview – account for traffic or other delays
- When you meet your interviewer, smile, have good posture, good eye contact, and a firm handshake
- Do NOT ask about salary, days off, breaks, or perks

- Prepare questions for the interviewers – some may ask if you have questions
- Ask about interesting company projects or successes you have researched or plans for the future growth of the company ... show interest in them so they show interest in you!

Visit [wrksolutions.com/interview](http://wrksolutions.com/interview) questions to view and practice the most frequently asked interview questions





# CAR STATEMENT: Sharing Skills through Storytelling

*Challenge, Action, Results*

Employers are looking for you to tell them not only about your success but *how* you got there.

A CAR statement is a brief story that you can tell to summarize an accomplishment you have made by overcoming a challenge. CAR statements are a great way to answer behavioral interview questions. These are questions that start like this, “Tell me about a time when...” or “Give me an example of how...”

They will also usually ask for this type of response as it relates to one of the traits they need in their employees. For example, how would you answer this question with a CAR statement?

*“Can you tell me about a time you solved a problem that needed immediate attention?”*

### **CAR Statement Example:**

My computer did not save my homework and it was due in two hours. I had written all my notes out as a backup and was able to use part of my lunch time to redo my homework in the computer lab. Because I had enough forethought to keep my notes, resolving the problem was easy and I was able to turn my work in on time without sacrificing the quality.

### **Now build your own CAR statement in response to this question**

#### **Challenge:**

**Action** (describe what you did to resolve the problem):

**Results** (describe the outcome and it how it demonstrated a positive perception of your skills, including any positive feedback from a supervisor or team):

## **EXAMPLES OF TRAITS EMPLOYERS NEED**

- Teamwork & Working in Diverse Environments
- Interpersonal Communication
- Problem Solving & Critical Thinking
- Enthusiasm & Attitude
- Flexibility & Adaptability
- Professionalism
- Work Ethic: Integrity, Responsibility & Accountability
- Time Management
- Ability to Accept and Integrate Criticism and Feedback



# ASPIRE WITH YOUR ATTIRE

*Not the best first impression*



Inappropriate Attire – Athletic attire, clubbing outfits, wrinkled jeans and sleeveless shirts.

*Ready to be taken seriously*



Appropriate Attire – You can't go wrong with a suit and tie, ladies should wear knee length skirts and modest heels or flats, slacks and collared shirts are a good choice for both guys and girls.

## OTHER TIPS

### QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

Wear your best but not ALL your best. Accessories can be distracting. A simple portfolio to hold resumes, reference lists, and a paper and pen for notes is the perfect accessory.

### CASUAL

Usually, casual office attire allows employees to wear jeans and short-sleeved shirts regularly, and possibly tennis shoes but not sandals or flip-flops. If you are on your feet all day, wear comfortable shoes such as ballet flats, low-rise wedges, boots, penny loafers or oxfords.

### BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL

For women, this usually means a business suit or pants suit, or dress and jacket. For men, professional dress means a business suit or a blazer, dress pants and a tie.

### BUSINESS CASUAL

Business casual often includes khaki pants, slacks and skirts; short-sleeved and long-sleeved shirts with collars, but ties are generally not required. Business casual usually excludes jeans, sneakers, tight or short skirts, t-shirts and sweatshirts.

“Before you leave the house, look in the mirror and remove one accessory.”

—Coco Chanel

### SELF-EXPRESSION

If you have prominent tattoos on your arms or neck, what you wear should conceal those tattoos if you're seeking work in a conservative-oriented work environment. Piercings most likely will not be permitted in most office environments, and the same goes for extravagant hairstyles and noticeably unnatural hair colors.

### CORPORATE CULTURE

Dress to match the culture and position you want at the company for whom you'd like to work. A nicely pressed pair of slacks and a polo with matching belt and shoes might be inappropriate for an office job but appropriate for work in a manufacturing plant where people in your job of choice dress in a similar fashion.