

# WORK-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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## FOR THE TEACHER:

### Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- understand the benefits of participating in Work-based Learning Activities
- investigate various WLAs in their community
- learn to develop and set goals to prepare them for potential WLAs

### Setting The Stage

Ask students to suggest ways to find out if a career that they're interested in is right for them. Identify Work-based Learning Activities suggestions (e.g. job shadowing, internships, etc.) as they're given, and encourage students to come up with more examples of WLAs. Ask students to develop, as a class or individually, a list of other benefits to participating in WLAs. Answers may include: making valuable work connections (networking), finding community mentors, seeing firsthand how subjects they're learning in school translate to the workplace, developing workplace and interpersonal skills, earning academic credit, earning money for college, learning more about job requirements and training, and developing self-esteem and confidence in their contributions as workers.

You can help prepare students for participating in Work-based Learning Activities by encouraging them to assess their own interests, skills, learning styles, and abilities using Career Cruising's assessment tools. Emphasize how knowing their interests will help them identify and choose a WLA that reflects their personal likes; how knowing their strengths and weaknesses will help them set goals for the skills and abilities they want to either use or improve during the WLA; and how knowing their learning style can help them understand the relationship between how they learn and success during the WLA.

### Extension Activity

Students who request and complete a WLA can maintain a reflective journal that outlines the goals they hope to accomplish by participating in the WLA and chronicles their experiences, learning, successes, and problems throughout the WLA. You can use the My Journal feature of Career Cruising, a class blog, or any other journaling format that appeals to you and your students.

### Starting The Program

Go to [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). Enter your username and password in the spaces provided, and click on Login.

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Click on the **MIBrightFuture** tab in the menu bar at the top of the page and select THE **WORK-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES** link. Click on **SEARCH BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY** and select an opportunity type that interests you.

1. Read through the list of Work-based Learning Activities (WLAs) available at companies in your area. Click on one provided by a company that interests you and answer the following questions:

What is the name and/or type of the Work-based Learning Activities?

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What is the name of the company that provides the WLA?

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In what city (or cities) is the WLA available?

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2. Learn more about the company offering the Work-based Learning Activities. Click on the name of the company providing the WLA that interests you. Explore the company profile, including the Who We Hire section, and answer the following questions:

What does this company do?

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What career clusters does this company hire people in?

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What careers does this company hire people in?

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If you were to participate in this WLA, which career offered at this company would you like to learn more about and what would you like to learn about that career? (*e.g. mechanical engineer – Do mechanical engineers at this company need special training in robotics?*)

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**3. Learn more about the Work-based Learning Activities offered at this company.** Click on the **Opportunities** tab in the menu on the left side of the page.

What other WLAs are available at this company?

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What other WLAs interest you? Why?

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**4. Click on the WLA that you wrote down in Question # 1.**

Describe this type of WLA. What's it about?

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What interests you about this WLA?

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What skills or abilities would you like to learn more about, acquire, or use during this WLA? (e.g. *budgeting skills, communication skills, teamwork*)

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What school subjects or other knowledge would you be able to use during this WLA? (e.g. *science, Spanish, knowledge of bicycle maintenance*)

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What workplace behavior or personal characteristics would you like to acquire, practice, or improve during this WLA? (e.g. *time management, adaptability, stress management*)

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What else would you like to learn or accomplish by participating in this WLA?

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## Summary – Your Views

What else would you like to know about this WLA before deciding whether or not to apply?

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How can you find out the answers to your questions?

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Are you interested in applying for this WLA? Why or why not?

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If you are interested in Work-based Learning Activities, click on the MAKE A REQUEST button to send a request to the WLA administrator at your school. Your school administrator will follow up with you about your request, and, if it is approved, he or she will contact the company and make the necessary arrangements on your behalf.