Audience

Middle school students, 6th-8th grade

Time

60+ minutes

Materials needed

* Colored construction paper
* Markers
* Scissors
* Glue sticks
* Magazines, or anything else students can cut words and images from
* Copy of directions and figure outline-one of each per student (*p. 2-3*)
* Notebook paper
* Pen or pencil

Purpose

This is a creative activity that you can use with students to help them think about what their future career will look like. The writing prompts get students to think about the skills they have and that they need for their future career. Students will also learn about education and training needed to get to their future career.

Instructions

1. Provide students with a copy of instructions, person outline, and 1 piece of construction paper.
2. Review the instructions for creating their future self with the class.
3. It is ok if students don’t know exactly what they want to do for a career, but they will need to pick something for this activity. If a student doesn’t have a career in mind, they can think more broadly about a career field instead.
4. Turn them loose! Let them be creative in imagining their future self with the supplies provided.

We recommend setting aside a couple of class periods to complete this activity.

Modifications

Here are some modifications of this activity that you can also consider:

* Students could present their person and write up in front of the class.
* Instead of writing, you could discuss the writing prompts as a class or in small groups.
* Instead of cutting out words and phrases to describe their future self, students can write them.
* No cutting required! You can have students create their person on the worksheet you hand out. No need to cut it out and glue it on construction paper if you don’t want to.
* Use with the [Career Pathways Poster](https://oregongoestocollege.org/resources/career-pathways-poster) instead of the writing prompts to guide students in researching their future career. Students can create their person and add it to the poster, in the photo box, or they can take an actual picture of their person to add to the poster. It’s completely up to you!

## Directions

Step 1: Cut out the person and glue them to a colored piece of paper.

Step 2: Write your future career, in big letters, at the top of the page.

Step 3: Add your name, in big letters, somewhere on the page.

Step 4: Use construction paper, items cut from a magazine, or your own creativity, to construct your professional self. Include clothing, hair, shoes and accessories.

Step 5: Glue these items onto your person.

Step 6: Using a magazine, find a minimum of 10 words/phrases that describe your future self.  Consider adding personal traits and required skills for your selected career.

Step 7: Glue these words and phrases around your future self.

**Write:** In a well-written paragraph, answer the following questions (you may need to do some research):

* What career did you choose?  Why?
* What skills do you currently have that will help you in this career?
* What do you still have to learn?
* How will you get there? What education/training do you need?

