

Career Inventories

Career choice is one of the important options available for students of high school. While many students try to arrange their career and educational options long before the graduation year, the main options concern skills and preferences of people with regard to what they would like to do in life and what priorities they tend to make. In this respect, the official web site of the California Career Resource Network (<http://www.cacareerzone.org/>) enables students, their parents, and counselors to assess and evaluate their options and recommend appropriate educational pathways so that they could choose the right career. Some people seek lucrative job, whereas others are more interested in teamwork and good instructions. The choice is of the basic constitutional rights and it may be as broad as one wish in the United States of America.

The interest profiler enabled me to see that I have some preferences in life regarding the activities I like and dislike most. In this respect, the results were the following: the top three interest areas included social (30), artistic (17), and conventional (10), while the least interesting were such areas as investigative (9), enterprising (2), and realistic (0) activities. Interpretation of the meaning of every activity and possible occupations and fields of career shows that helping or/and providing some assistance, services, or advice to others is one of my priorities. Taking into account the preferences and interests in society-oriented activities makes it rather reasonable to make the career choice of a school counselor. At the same time, there are a few other options that should be taken into account. Besides, the interests and priorities may vary throughout the life, opening new options and career choice possibilities for people who want to switch their careers.

Other activity interests to be discussed include artistic and conventional. These two activities seem to be related directly to the social interest in some way, yet they are rather contradictory when comparing them to each other. For instance, the role of authority is diverse for these interests, where artistic activity tends to put the authority as less important, while conventional interest is the one mostly based on authority and following the rules. At the same time, the results may be interpreted in the way that I am interested in the work related to work with people that has some norms and rules, but still requires some level of creativity to be applied. As for the career pathways suggested based on my interests, the highest rating was for Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education (0,980). In other words, the five highest rated professions were related with teaching with the fifth rated being **Marriage and Family Therapists** (0.936).

The work importance profiler demonstrated my work values and priorities that are important for me in the workplace. As such, support is rated first and achievement is rated second in the list of my work values. In other words, I rely on rules and tend to work under supervision. I believe that this can be interpreted as my intention to follow ethical and moral principles as well as organizational and public policies that can serve as frameworks for application of my professional skills in school counseling. At the same time achievement shows that I am striving to implement my skills and professional knowledge to the maximum and attain the goals with regard to the clients' needs and preferences. So, I think that these work values are applicable to the profession of a school counselor.

Other work values included recognition, working conditions, independence, and relations in the workplace. I think that the profiler have properly reflected my priorities, though I could value the relationships at work higher than recognition. On

the one hand, I think that every expert has a right to expect for some appreciation and recognition, even if this is not reflected in salary, some bonuses, or diplomas. On the other hand, I can effectively work under supervision and do not strive to be independent. Therefore, as a school counselor I would be rather effective in my professional duties and performance. At the same time, it was surprising to receive results of occupations that place work values in the same way as I did them. In this respect, the five highly rated professions/occupations based on my work values include reporters and correspondents (0.480), locomotive engineers (0.469), insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators (0.452), nuclear monitoring technicians (0.443), and environmental compliance inspectors (0.437). These results contradict the ones received from the interest profiler, but combining both lists of professions and priorities, it is possible to find out the values I share mostly and recognize some flows in my working style.

To conclude, both the interest profiler and work importance profilers have provided essential results and showed my interests and some hidden traits that I will certainly take into account while implementing my knowledge in professional environment. I think that realistic application of one's skills is a great way to do something that is related to one's interests and inborn talents. Even though some people tend to look for financially rewarding careers, this may be exhausting and lead to emotional burn out.

References

California Career Resource Network. (n.d.). Official website. Retrieved from
<http://www.cacareerzone.org/>