**Career Possibilities Word Cloud Assignment - Faculty Instructions**

**Module 4: Identifying and Researching Career Options**

This assignment will give students the opportunity to use one of the tools available, O\*NET, to identify possible career options using their interests, abilities, and values, and to then synthesize and visualize their options by using a word cloud generator.

Students will follow the steps explained in the module for using the “Interests,” “Work Values,” and “Skills Search” sections of O\*NET to generate lists of potential career options. They will merge these lists in a document, and then copy the merged list into an online word cloud generator, such as tagcrowd.com. This will help students to see themes in the career options suggested based on their interests, abilities, and values. Finally, they will write a reflection discussing these themes and how it relates to their career choice.

Students will turn in 3 things – their merged list of career options from O\*NET, their word cloud, and their reflection. You will need to decide what format you want these items in – print or electronic. Note that for electronic submission, if a student wishes to use a word cloud generator other than the one suggested in the instructions, TagCrowd, they will need to use one that allows them to save their finished word cloud to their computer, OR save it to the web, if you are ok with students submitting a link rather than a document. The instructions for students state that they will need to select a word cloud generator and turn in their word cloud according to the directions they are given by their instructor, so please make sure to specify this when giving out the assignment.

The instructions for you to give to your students (or modify and give to your students) are on the following page.

**Career Possibilities Word Cloud - Student Instructions**

In this module, you learned how tools like Sigi and O\*NET can be used to generate possible career options for you based upon your interests, abilities, and values. For this assignment, you will use O\*NET to create a list of career options, which you’ll then insert into a word cloud generator to create a visual representation of your career options. Creating a word cloud is a great way to synthesize and make sense of long lists of career options because it will allow you to see themes in the careers coming up as potential options for you.

**Step 1: Use O\*NET to Generate Career Options**

1. Go to <http://www.onetonline.org/>
2. Follow the instructions given in the module for using the “Interests,” “Work Values,” and “Skills Search” sections to generate lists of potential career options.
   * For the interests section, remember that if you do not feel confident in what your Holland Type is, you can find out by completing the My Next Move O\*NET Interests Profiler, which you can get to from the O\*NET homepage. This will only take you about 10 minutes.
   * In the interests section, you do NOT need to put in all three types in your Holland Code. A very specific 3 letter combo will restrict your search results. Enter what makes sense based on your Holland Code. For example, if you feel you are a pretty equal blend of 3 types, you might enter them all but not put them in a specific order. If you feel you are mostly just 2 types, with one definitely stronger than the other, enter only those 2, but put them in the correct order.
3. When you complete each one of the above sections, copy and paste the list of careers you get into a document. Copy and paste all three lists to create one big list. Do not delete any duplicates careers you get.
4. DO clean up your list by deleting any extra words that copied over that are not part of a job title, such as “Bright Outlook” or “Green.”

**Step 2: Create Your Word Cloud**

1. Copy the entire list of careers you compiled in your document and paste it into a free online word cloud generator, such as <http://tagcrowd.com/>.
   * If you choose to use a different word cloud generator than the one mentioned above, you will need to make sure that it is set to display word size based on frequency (the more times a word is used, the larger the word will be).
   * If you have done other career assessments and wish to add those results into your word cloud as well to get a more comprehensive picture, you are welcome to do so.
2. Follow the instructions given by your instructor to save and turn in your word cloud. Keep in mind that if your instructor wants you to submit your word cloud electronically as a file, you will need to choose a word cloud generator that allows you to save your finished word cloud as a file to your computer. (TagCrowd allows you to do this.)

**Step 3: What does your word cloud say about your ideal career?**

1. Answer the following questions in a brief, 1 page reflection paper: What were the major themes that appeared in your word cloud? Looking at the largest words, what kind of job titles do those point you to? Discuss your reaction to your word cloud. Does it seem to “fit” and be a good visual representation of you? If not, discuss what you think should be different and why you think your results didn’t come out as you expected.

**What to Turn In**

Follow the directions given to you by your instructor for the format these items should be submitted in, and how they should be submitted. You will turn in:

* Your compiled list of careers generated from O\*NET
* Your word cloud
* Your answers to the reflection questions