

## **College Prep English – Military Career Unit**

This unit is designed to help you analyze and prepare for the your future in the military. YOU MUST TURN IN EACH OF THE ASSIGNMENTS together in a packet. Each will be awarded points separately. To be successful in this unit, you need to follow directions exactly. If you have questions, please ask.

**Appearance does count:** All work must be typewritten, proofread, and spellchecked. Accuracy of mechanics, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage will count toward grades. You may present this information in paragraph or bullet form. Your choice.

### **Assignment #1**

Select three (3) branches of the military that you are considering for your future and complete the following information. Each bullet below is **REQUIRED for each branch you list**:

- State the selected branches of the military you are investigating: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Reserves, and/or National Guard. [Note: The Reserves and National Guard are usually not full-time military, which is why they are often referred to as weekend warriors, unless the unit you are in is activated and sent somewhere for a specified period of time.]
- State your military career goals. Are you intending to enlist and serve your minimum requirement? Are you considering a full 20-year career and military retirement? Are you considering application to one of the military academies? Are you considering pairing college with ROTC enrollment and subsequent service as an officer. Explain your plans in detail.
- Create a comparison/contrast chart that analyzes each of the following:
  - Minimum required ASVAB score for each branch
  - Enlistment qualifications (to include all of the following for each: age, citizenship status, number of dependents, credit and finances, marital status and spouse's service status, education level, drug/alcohol involvement, criminal history, medical conditions, height, weight, other miscellaneous conditions.
  - Put a check next to each qualification where you meet the minimum criteria.
- What MOS (military job) are you interested in for each branch you list. Why are you interested in this MOS? Explain in detail.
- Identify the minimum qualifications necessary for being placed in this MOS. Do you meet the MOS criteria?
- Provide evidence (photocopies) of the **qualifications for admission** to this MOS for each branch you are investigating.
- Finally, identify which of the three military branches is your number one choice based upon your analysis of the three service branches. Write a brief statement identifying your #1 choice and explaining why you have selected it as #1.

### **Assignment #2**

Provide a statement that analyzes the career outlook for your intended MOS (Army/Marines), AFSC (Air Force Specialty Code), or rating (Coast Guard). Consider and include the following **REQUIRED** information. Be sure to answer **all parts of each bullet**. Use MLA citation formats.

- a. Outline the duties of the MOS/AFSC/rating you have chosen. Be detailed and specific.
- b. Does this MOS/AFSC/rating require a security clearance? If so, what level of clearance? Can you qualify for this clearance? What specialized training does your branch offer for this MOS/AFSC/rating? How long is the training? Where is the training located? How do you apply for this training?
- c. Does your branch of service offer enlistment incentives? Which are you most interested in? Why? Will you qualify for them? If you are interested in serving as an officer, what commission options are you considering? Why? Will you qualify for them?

- d. Outline your plan for career advancement. What career choices will you make? What training schools are you most interested in? What rank do you want to achieve? Explain in detail.
- e. What are the estimated starting salaries for a new recruit? What other benefits will you receive as a new recruit or newly commissioned officer?
- f. How will your military service job transfer to civilian life after your service ends? Will you need additional training before you are employable as a civilian? If so, what training will you need and how do you plan to obtain it?
- g. With proposed cuts in federal military spending looming, what plans do you have if you are unable to enlist or join the military?
- h. Certain behaviors can disqualify you from service. What are these? (Ex: Drug arrests, etc.)
- i. **Prepare a works cited** in MLA format that cites all the sources you used. **You need to use a minimum of 4 sources.** Use the "Hacker\_MLA Update" as your tool for preparing MLA citations. The works cited will receive a separate grade.

### **Assignment #3**

This I Believe essay. **MAIN PART OF PROJECT.**

- See separate handout for specific requirements.
- Serving in the military requires a whole body commitment: physical, mental, and emotional. Therefore, understanding why you want to serve and how you feel about America, and what your role will be in defending our country is important. For this essay, you will write an essay exploring your deep-seated beliefs on these questions. For guidance, read the essays believe from National Public Radio's "This I Believe" series and fashion your own statement that reflects your personal values and beliefs. Fee free to read additional essays at <http://thisibelieve.org>.

#### Sample essays

- "Patriotic Ponderings" Joan Skiba <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/68044/>
- "The America I believe in" Colin Powell, <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/27/>
- "That Old Piece of Cloth" Frank Miller <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/23037/>

### **Assignment #4**

Write a statement [one paragraph to one page] that analyzes the process you went through in obtaining the above information for Assignments 1-3. What worked for you? What didn't work for you? As a result of the research you have done, have you changed your thinking about what you intend to do? If yes, explain in what way(s). Did you find out anything that surprised you? Explain what surprised you. If you were not surprised or did not change your thinking, analyze how your research reinforced your commitment to your plans.

#### **Additional Project requirements:**

1. Include a **title page** for the front of your project.
2. All work must be neatly typewritten or word-processed. Missing information will cause point deductions. Grammar and mechanic errors will significantly lower grade.
3. **Turn in two complete copies of this assignment.** One will go in a folder to be saved for your senior portfolio due in the spring. You'll have one section done. If you don't turn it in now, you will be responsible for providing this military career packet in the spring.
4. Feel free to include in your packet any brochures, photocopies of information, or other materials that you obtain that have helped you in your military selection process.

#### **Extra Credit:**

You can earn extra credit by contacting a person who is serving or who has served in the military and interviewing and/or shadowing this person. If you plan to do this, submit to me a list of ten questions you

will ask. Then following your interview, prepare a transcript of the interview that includes both the questions you asked and the interviewee's responses. You must also include the name of the person, person's company, person's job title/position, person's work address, and contact phone number and/or email address. Then write a paragraph in which you analyze the significance of the interview in regards to your college and career choices.