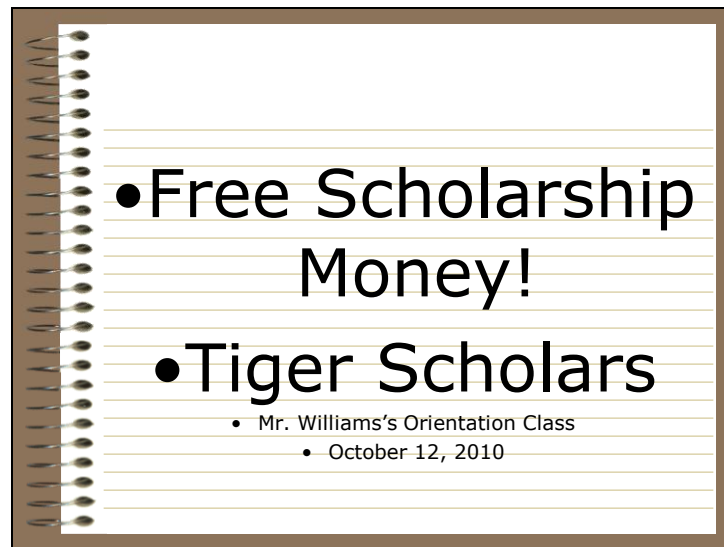
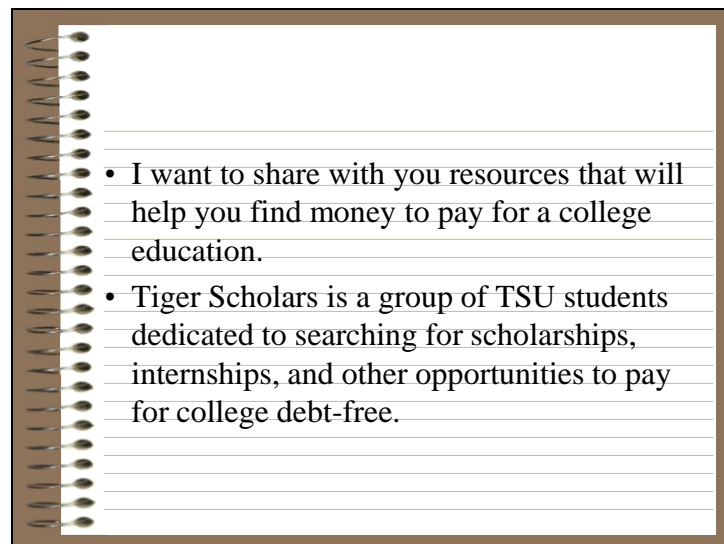
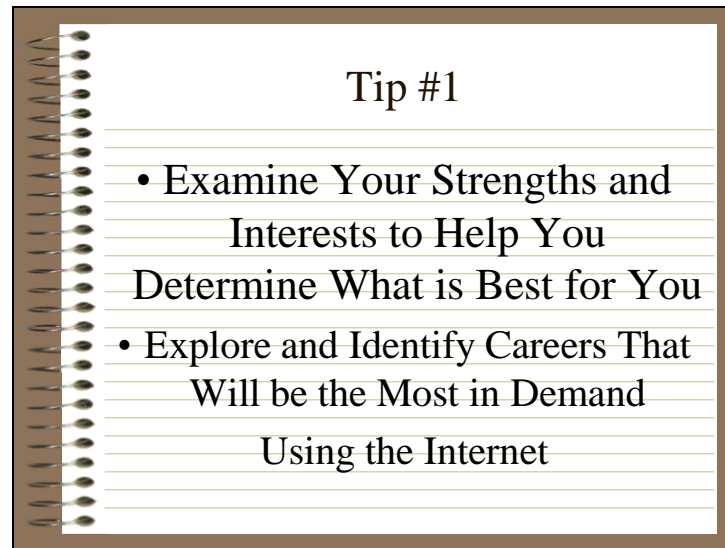


Slide 1



Slide 2





**Examine Your Strengths and Interests to Help You
Determine What is Best for You**

TBR Virtual Career Center

<http://careers.rodip.org/>

From website: "This website is designed for all Tennesseans. It includes information for individuals from middle school age to working adults. Whether you are interested in writing or rewriting your resume; preparing for an interview; and/or looking for an occupation that matches your interests, skills, and experience, this website provides a wealth of information to achieve your career and educational goals."

O*Net Career Exploration Tools

<http://www.onetcenter.org/tools.html>

The O*Net System is the "nation's primary source of occupational information" and stands for Occupational Informational Network.

O*Net also provides a set of career exploration tools. Instead of spending hundreds of dollars for career assessment, you can use this free resource.

Here is a description of the tools and the concept behind them from the website:

"The O*NET team has designed a set of self-directed career exploration/assessment tools to help workers consider and plan career options, preparation, and transitions more effectively. They also are designed for use by students who are exploring the school-to-work transition. The assessment instruments, which are based on a "whole-person" concept, include:

O*NET Ability Profiler

O*NET Interest Profiler

O*NET Computerized Interest Profiler

O*NET Work Importance Locator

O*NET Work Importance Profiler

These instruments will help people identify their work-related interests, what they consider important on the job, and their abilities in order to explore those occupations that relate most closely to those attributes. Users of the tools may link to the more than 800 occupations described by the O*NET database, as well as to occupational information in CareerOneStop. This allows individuals to make a seamless transition from assessing their interests, work values, and abilities to matching their job skills with the requirements of occupations in their local labor market."

When I look at this system, I am amazed.

This is a resource provided by our federal government. Your tax money paid for this informative and accurate guide.

Other Career Resources

1. <http://www.tnstate.edu/careers/>

Use the Career Development Center at Tennessee State University.

Instead of spending hundreds of dollars for personal career counseling and taking batteries of tests to determine areas of interest, these services are available for free in career placement services.

2. A classic in the field of career counseling is Richard Nelson Bolles's *What Color Is Your Parachute: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers*. This book is updated every year (I own several copies).

If you find this book to be too much, then check out Richard Bolles's *The Job-Hunter's Survival Guide: How to Find Hope and Rewarding Work even When "there are no jobs."*

Both books have extensive resources on how to determine your interests, and how those can apply to the field you choose to enter.

Bolles also has a comprehensive website about job searches and career planning at his website, <http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/>

If you want to take online tests to help you figure out what you like to do, Bolles has a section devoted to Online Career Tests:

http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/counseling/sec_page.php?sub_item=048

I would also read his "Six Rules about Taking Career Tests."

2. Dan Miller, a career counselor and author of *48 Days to the Work You Love* and *No More Dreaded Mondays: Ignite Your Passion - and Other Revolutionary Ways to Discover Your True Calling at Work*, has a comprehensive career kit available for a short time, entitled *48 Days to the Work You Love Career Kit*.

I bought several copies to give out as presents this Christmas. Using the Interactive Workbook, you have a comprehensive way to “combine (1) skills and abilities, (2) personality tendencies, and (3) values, dreams, and passions.”

This career kit can be had for \$20 plus postage and handling:

<http://www.48days.net/page/career-kit>

Dan Miller’s website: <http://www.48days.com>

I am also a member of Dan Miller’s 48days.net, a web community of people helping each other realize their dreams and their potential:

<http://www.48days.net/>

Explore and Identify Careers That Will be the Most in Demand Using the Internet

1. <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

<http://www.onetcenter.org/>

O*Net Online System

The O*Net System is the "nation's primary source of occupational information" and stands for Occupational Informational Network.

Basically, you can now go online and find out what will be the projected need and growth for a certain occupation in the next ten years, how much education will that occupation most likely require, and what are the wages for that occupation across the nation, including a breakdown of wages by state and major metropolitan areas.

The wage information is very informative, going beyond the average. Salaries are given in the bottom 10% and 25% (the range for starting salaries), the Median income (the average salary), and the top 75% and 95% range (the salary at the high end). This gives you a more accurate picture of salaries and what to ask for when you get to that stage in the interview process.

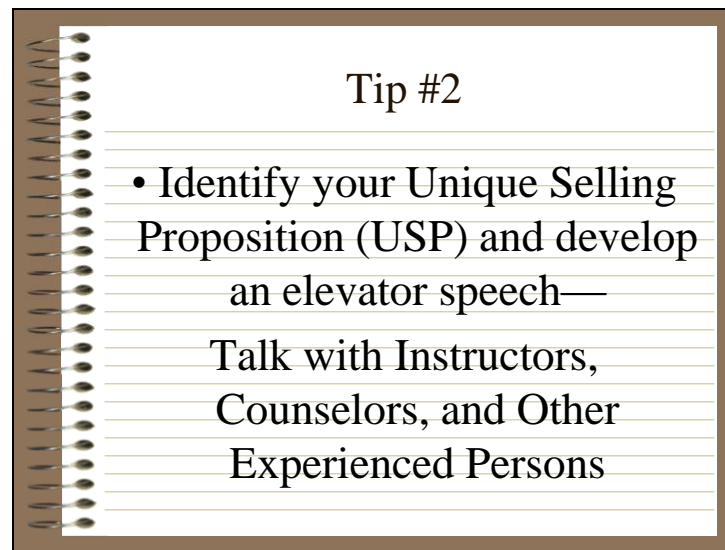
Average salaries are often not indicative of what starting salaries in any job will be. Looking at the bottom 10% to 25% range gives you more of an idea of what your starting salary will realistically be.

2. <http://6steps.monster.com/step1/careerconverter/>

Major to Career Converter

Monster.com has a major to career converter. Marc Scheer, author of *No Sucker Left Behind: Avoiding the Great College Rip-Off*, mentions this as a “tool that students can use to easily match types of college majors with specific job titles and job listings.”

Using this tool along with the above websites can help you match possible college majors with your particular interests.



You are marketing yourself. Let me repeat that again: you are marketing yourself.

Early on, I had a negative attitude toward marketing. I saw marketers as used car salesmen, trying to sell me cars that were lemons.

The more honest way of marketing that I heard came from Dan Miller. He said marketing was sharing enthusiasm about yourself or something you found useful.

Another marketing term is finding your USP—your Unique Selling Proposition. What distinguishes you from everybody else, what makes you unique?

An elevator speech is how you introduce yourself to others—you tell them who you are in one or two sentences; when you walk onto an elevator, you should be able to tell someone who you are and what you do, something that will interest them, so that by the time the elevator reaches the next floor, you are done with your presentation.

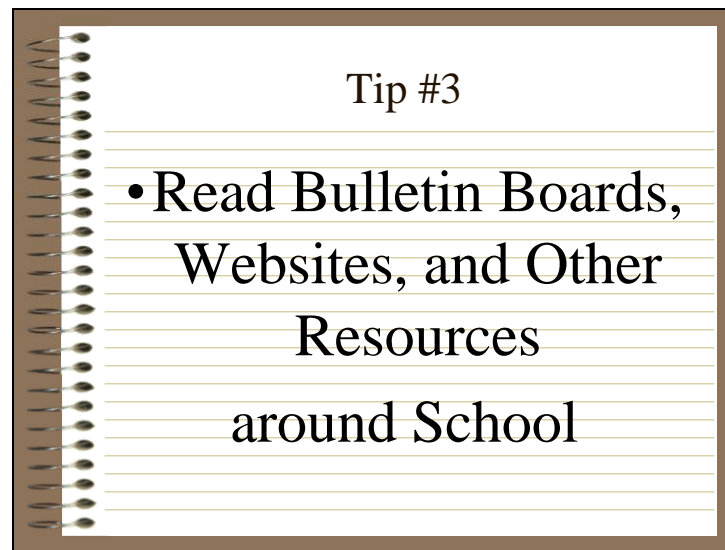
Let's say Patrick is majoring in communications at Tennessee State University. He might say, "I'm Patrick. I love creating music. I'm a student in the new commercial music program at Tennessee State University. I'm really passionate about learning recording. I have accumulated about \$2,000 toward my goal of \$14,000. Do you have any ideas about how I can

pay to finance my dream?" Or "Do you know of any scholarships to help pay for school?"

"Do you know anybody I can talk to learn more about the music business?" If you ask this question, you are not looking for scholarships, but seeking out people for informational interviewing, where you learn how people became interested in the field you want to study and how they got there.

The question "Do you have any ideas about how I can pay to finance my dream?" comes from a suggestion by Barbara Sher. She mentions that some people may try to talk you out of your dream.

One way to turn the tables is to state your problem and then ask another person do they have any ideas about how to overcome your problem. People automatically begin to think of ways to solve your problems; people become your advocates, for you have asked them to help you.



Always read bulletin boards, websites, and other resources around campus to become aware of opportunities.

1. Robert N. Murrell Oratorical Contest

Deadline: 4:30 pm, Friday, October 15, 2010

For more information, pick up an application form from the Robert N. Murrell Oratorical Contest, TSU, Crouch Hall (Graduate Building), room 408, 615.963.5755

Contest Rules: Contestants are to use their creativity and imagination in writing and presenting orations on the Homecoming theme. The Homecoming Theme is "Deeply Rooted in the Year of the Tiger." Abstracts must not exceed 250 words; oratorical presentations must be within 3 to 5 minutes in length.

Application must be delivered to room 408 in the Crouch Hall (Graduate building) by Friday, October 15, 2010, by 4:30 pm.

Other opportunities you will have discovered by looking out for them.

2. http://www.jmls.edu/diversity/mock_trial.shtml

<http://www.jmls.edu/diversity/events.shtml>

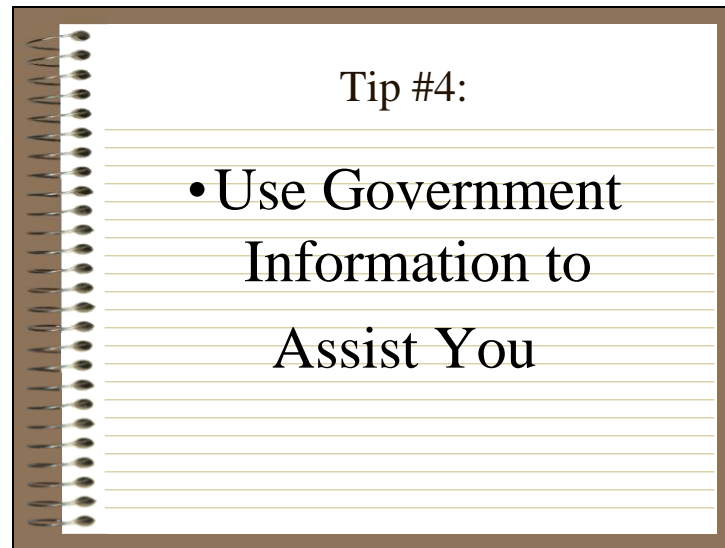
TSU Pre-Law Workshop and Competition, open to all students

October 22, 2010

3. <http://mytsu.tnstate.edu/cp/home/loginf>

Badjie Service Award Program

Deadline: November 15, 2010



1. <http://www.govbenefits.gov/>

The federal government has a web site where you can put in your information and see what government benefits you qualify for: The federal government gives over \$60 billion a year in federal aid.

2. <http://studentaid.ed.gov/>

Federal Student Aid (FSA) for Students

3. <http://www.students.gov/>

The student gateway to the federal government. Check out information under the headings of plan your education, pay for your education, and career development.

4. <http://www.usa.gov/>

The official website for exploring the federal government

5. <http://www.college.gov/>

A website about the journey to college, sponsored by our federal government

6. <http://www.tn.gov/collegepays/index.html>

College Pays, a website sponsored by Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), the agency responsible for administering federal and state scholarships in the state of Tennessee, including lottery scholarships

7. <http://tn.gov/tsac/index.shtml>

The homepage for TSAC



College Goal Sunday

<http://www.tn.gov/collegegoalsunday/>

In Tennessee, College Goal Sunday will occur on Sunday, January 30, 2011, and February 13, 2011.

What information you will need to bring with you and locations throughout the state will be posted here as we get closer to those dates.

College Goal Sunday is a program which occurs in all 50 states about every January and/or February where financial counselors will help you fill out your FAFSA.

Government Websites and Publications

1. <http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov>

Students can go to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online and apply. If you apply online, the process is faster.

Also, students and parents can receive assistance in completing the FAFSA online by calling 1-800-801-0576. Since this is a government website, .gov

will be in the web address. Any .com in the web address will charge you money and is a rip-off, and that .com is not associated with the federal government.

2. <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/fafsa.jsp>

Information about filling out the FAFSA on the web

3.

http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/completing_fafsa/index.html

Information about completing the FAFSA can be found here, including the PDF versions of the Dept. of Education's *Completing the FAFSA, 2010-2011*.

4.

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/publications.jsp>

Federal Student Aid Publications

Several good publications are available in PDF format, informing students and parents on how to file the FAFSA, how to choose a college or career, and how to avoid student loan scams.

Of particular interest to those who have students in middle and junior high schools is a publication called *My Future, My Way: How to Go, How to Pay—A Workbook for Students in Middle and Junior High Schools*.

Another publication, *Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees*, can make some interesting reading.

Other Publications and Information

1. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* web site has a great article entitled, "11 Student-Aid Traps to Avoid," which would make for timely reading:

<http://www.kiplinger.com/features/archives/2009/01/avoid-student-aid-traps.html>

2. Another Kiplinger article, "Financial-Aid Form Gets a Facelift: The new FAFSA is shorter, more helpful and less confusing":

<http://www.kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/financialaid-form-gets-a-facelift.html>

3. FAFSA Guide eBook – Line By Line FAFSA Help!

<http://www.fafsaonline.com/fafsa-guide-ebook.php>

Slide 8

