Visual Imaging

“A Day in the Life” Career Narrative Assignment

*You should already have some experience investigating careers for your career tree worksheets. Today you will re-visit those worksheets and explore one career in greater depth.*

*In order to choose a career that will suit you, it is important to understand what a typical day with that career might be like. This assignment will allow you to both imagine your life in your desired field while practicing your writing skills.*

*To create your “day in the life” career narrative, you will do the following:*

1. Review your career tree handouts, where you should have already compiled some facts about (a) career(s) of interest.
2. Research online what the daily schedule is like for a person with your chosen career.
3. Think about your own lifestyle needs: What are your hobbies? What time do you like to wake up, work, and go to bed? Do you like to work with people? What level of income would you need to live the kind of life you want?
4. Imagine yourself in ten years with this career. Determine the things you would like about this career, and the things that might be less desirable.
5. Finally, draft a cohesive narrative that takes the reader through a typical day in your life with your desired career.

*Your narrative should:*

* Be 1-2 pages in length (12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, 1” margins)
* Describe your life from the time you wake up to the time you go to bed
* Give both details of the work day and describe the time you would spend outside of work. (Keep it PG, of course!)
* Explain which aspects of the career suit you and which aspects are less appealing.
* Use proper spelling and grammar (including capitalization and punctuation).

*Turn in your “day in the life” narrative at the end of the class.*

Example (from <http://ashkelonexcavations.blogspot.com/2010/05/day-in-life-of-archaeologist.html>)

A Day in the Life of an Archaeologist

Wake up is at 4:30 AM unless like me you are crazy enough that you manage to wake up at 4:00 without the help of an alarm. (Like I said, crazy!). We wake up that early in order to finish a full eight hour work day before it gets too hot but you don't really think about that when you wake up and it is pitch black outside. You mostly think about how you must be crazy.

Once we manage to pull ourselves together we wander downstairs for First Breakfast (like Hobbits we have a few extra meals built into the day) which usually consists of tea or coffee, bread and jam and what we affectionately call "bug juice" which is sorta but not really like Tang. 5:00 sharp the bus pulls up to take us to the dig site. It is still dark and the ride never takes as long as we would like it to.

By 5:10 we are at the Pottery Compound where we one and all race to grab our tools. We do this by the light of the florescent moon which pierces the still dark morning. Honestly, it is still dark! Then, tools in hand we strike off in the direction we believe will lead us to our designated excavation areas. (We haven't lost anyone yet and, fingers crossed, we won't this year.)

By 5:30 we are usually hard at work even though we can't really see anything. We work using a range of tools from dental picks and tiny paint brushes on up to full size pick axes and shovels (although they have a more fancy name). We dump all the dirt we dig up into buckets called gufas and then haul it away.

We break for Second Breakfast at 9:00 which is both a good thing and a bad thing. It is good because we get a break after a morning of manual labor and because the meal is pretty good even though we sit in the dirt to eat it (unless you are lucky enough to track down a nice patch of grass). And breakfast is pretty good; all you can eat (at least until it runs out) eggs, bread, olives, cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers, yogurt and more. The only real problem is that you have to go back to work and it always seems much, much hotter after the break.

And then we go back to work until our next opportunity for food or sleep, whichever you need more. Fruit Break happens at 11:15 or so and it only manages to be a Fruit Break if you saved some fruit from breakfast. From that point, however, the morning is almost over and even

though it is so hot your eyeballs are sweating the last bit of the day doesn't seem too bad. 12:50 we pack up our tools. 1:00 we board the buses and go back to the hotel. Once there we get cleaned up and go down to lunch.

After lunch we have free time until 4:00 when we get back on the bus to go back to the Pottery Compound (basically our office at the site) where we work on processing and analyzing the objects we found earlier in the day.

We do that for a couple of hours before getting back on the bus to return to the hotel where we then attend evening lectures on any number of subjects from numismatics (the study of coins) to my favorite, Ashkelon in the Islamic period. And then, only then do we go to dinner (usually around 7:15) after which it is again free time. Which in my case lasts until about 8:30 when I go to bed.