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Assignment #2

Subject, Audience, and Motivation

The subject of my project is the development of a personal reflection process that can help me develop and clarify my professional interests and goals. I believe it is very important that people engage in occupations that they find fulfilling since so much of their time and energy each day is spent at work. Some amount of stress and frustration is inevitable no matter where one works; however, a person's career should, overall, be an enhancement to his/her life and not just a necessary duty to pay the bills. In the past I have settled for several unsatisfying jobs, partially because I simply didn't know myself well enough to know what type of work I would find interesting, and partially because I didn't think I had any better options. I hope to design a process that will both help me clarify my professional interests and identify how those interests could be potentially realized in the working world. Although I am my own primary audience for this project, three other groups could benefit from the process I develop: high school seniors preparing to choose a college major (since the major they choose will largely effect the type of career they pursue); college seniors about to enter the professional world or choose a graduate school; and those already in the working world that are looking to change their career path.

Action Research Related Policy

One epicycle of my personal reflection process would involve developing a process by which to examine my past educational, occupational, and service related experiences, and looking at patterns that emerge from that analysis. A similar examination can be done for my current hobbies and pastimes. My current educational, occupational, and service related experiences could then be examined and compared to the patterns from the previous two examinations to help me evaluate which aspects of my current experiences match fulfilling or unfulfilling aspects of my past experiences, and aspects of my hobbies and pastimes; the evaluation of my current situation could then be determined by the results. Another epicycle would involve interviewing people that find their current line of work to be personally fulfilling and learning how they came by their job; this would concern interviewing people in occupations that I could potentially consider myself working in, based on the above evaluation. A process would need to be developed to determine what specific people to interview and what information to gather. Evaluation for the success of my process would involve a reflective essay detailing what I have learned about myself and how people find employment in personally fulfilling lines of work, and a course of action based on both; however, the ultimate success of the process would be determined by the level of satisfaction I find with my next (and any sub-sequential) position of employment.

Since this project involves the personal change of an individual, it is unclear at this time how constituency involvement can be developed and expanded.