Planning

After learning about the project ideas, you will be asked to select one project to investigate further with a group of three to five students over many class sessions. Before beginning your project presentation, you must first create a project plan and get it approved by your teacher.

Read the descriptions of the five project ideas.

1. **Computer Solutions:** Many professionals in your community—including farmers, mechanics, shopkeepers, lawyers, and others—are interested in seeing a presentation of your ideas about how computers can help them become more successful at work.

   Some questions to consider include:

   - Which career are you most interested in?

   - Who do you know in your community that works in the profession? How might you set up a time to interview the person about the type of work he or she does and about what his or her needs may be?

   - What activities that you completed in Unit 2: Technology at Work do you think might help the person become more successful at work? What are some new activities that might help as well? Why?

2. **Business Plan:** Your classmates have asked you, an entrepreneur, to help them start a new business. But to get enough money to start your business, you need to create a business plan and present it to a group of investors who are willing to help.

   Some questions to consider include:

   - What will be the name of your business?

   - What products or services will you sell to make money? How much will you charge?

   - Who will be your customers? How will you let potential customers know about your business?

   - How much money will you need to begin and run your business?

3. **Internet Use:** A new program lets communities apply to receive 20 free computers with Internet access. But to receive the computers, each community must make a presentation explaining why the community deserves the computers and how the computers will be used.

   Some questions to consider include:

   - Where will the computers go so that the greatest number of people in your community will be able to use them?

   - How will the computers be used to support learning, healthcare, government, and business in your community?

   - How will people be trained to use the computers and the Internet?

4. **Career Information:** Deciding on a career can be hard work, especially if you are not aware of the many types of careers available. Create a presentation that will inform others of career options.

   Some questions to consider include:

   - What are some popular jobs? Why are the jobs popular?

   - How much do people with the popular jobs earn? How do people in the jobs spend their days?

   - What sort of education or training is needed for the jobs?

   - How will the jobs change in the future? Will there be more or fewer people needed for the jobs? How might computers and technology change the way people do the jobs?

5. **Job Migration:** Many people decide to leave their communities so they can find work in faraway places. Make a presentation that shows the effects of this trend.

   Some questions to consider include:

   - Is job migration good or bad? Why?

   - How is a community affected when people leave to work elsewhere? How is one's family affected?

   - What can be done to change the trend of job migration?

   - How can computers and technology make it easier for family members in different places to keep in touch?

Think about the five projects described. Which ones are most interesting to you? Which ones might you already know something about? Listen to learn more about the process by which you will select a project to investigate further with others.

Once you know what challenge you will be working on, you must work with your group to create a plan that all of you can follow to complete your presentation. Discuss your answers to the following questions. Be certain to write your ideas on a sheet of paper.

1. Review the description of the challenge you will be working on, and rewrite the challenge in your own words. Then, discuss the questions for consideration.

2. What are the big ideas that you will address in your presentation? Which ones will you need to research and explore further?

3. Where will you get the information you need? What information might you search for in newspapers, books, or on the Internet? What people might you want to speak with?

4. How will you begin your presentation? What information might you put in the middle? How do you want your presentation to end?

5. Do you want to make a multimedia presentation using the multimedia software or would you rather create a presentation using the word processing software? Why?

6. What smaller activities might you include as part of your big presentation? What pictures might you design in the paint program or the draw program? What flyers, posters, or other documents might you create in the word processing program? What worksheets and charts might you make in the spreadsheet program?

7. How will you entertain your audience? Might some members of your group act, sing, or dance? Might you hand out any printed materials for the audience to read?

8. Which group members are good at which software? Which group members would like to work on the different parts of your presentation? Based on your answers, which group members should be assigned to work on which tasks?

9. How long do you think group members will take to complete each of their assigned parts? Which parts need to be completed first? Which should come last?

Review your presentation plan. If any questions have not been answered, answer them now. Make any other desired changes as well.

Remember to use the rubric as a guide as you plan, do, review, and share.

You must share your plan with your teacher who will want to hear your answers to the questions. Be prepared for your teacher to ask you additional questions as well. You might even be directed to do more planning and to share your revised plan before approval is given.