

**Grade level:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

**Summary:**

Students *Searching for the Future* use the AlphaSmart 3000, library resources and Internet to research potential careers. They write individual research papers, prepare and present multimedia presentations and participate in a “Wax Museum” where they assume the role of a wax figure that comes to life and tells visitors about their career.

**Technology tools:**

AlphaSmart 3000, computer, printer, data projector, SMART Board

**Internet sites:**

Xcursion

<http://www.xcursioncentral.com/index.cfm>

Jumpstart Financial Smarts for Students

<http://www.jumpstartcoalition.org>

A Guide for Writing Research Papers

<http://webster.commnet.edu/mla.htm>

A+ Research and Writing Step by Step

<http://www.ipl.org/teen/aplus>

Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocoiab.htm>

BLS Career Information

[http://stats.bis.gov/k12/html/edu\\_over.htm](http://stats.bis.gov/k12/html/edu_over.htm)

Career Zone

<http://www.nycareerzone.org/graphic/index.jsp>

Careers Online

<http://www.careersonline.com.au/show/jobs/index.html>

What Do They Do?

<http://www.whatdotheydo.com>

**Additional resources:**

1. Shurley, B., & Wetsell, R. (1997). *The Shurley Method English Made Easy* - Level 7. Cabot, AK: Shurley Instructional Materials, Inc.
2. Assessment rubrics available at:<http://www.teach-nology.com>

## Step-by-step tasks:

### Preparation

1. Teachers visit Xcursion (<http://www.xcursioncentral.com/index.cfm>) to create an online “Search for the Future.”
2. Discuss steps to create research papers and how to avoid plagiarism.
3. Tour the library to learn about available resources.

### Activities

1. Visit JumpStart Financial Smarts for Students (<http://www.xcursioncentral.com/index.cfm>) and complete a *Reality Check* to learn about living expenses.
2. Work in groups using the AlphaSmart to list careers potential careers. When finished list these on the SMART board and briefly discuss each career.



AlphaSmart Tip: Students list careers in an AlphaWord file. Press the **enter** key after each career listed. Launch *Inspiration* on a computer. Enter “Career Choices” as the main idea. Click the Rapid Fire button. Connect the AlphaSmart 3000 to the computer and press the **send** key.

3. Divide students into pairs and/or small groups for career research.
4. Go to the library to research careers. Use the AlphaSmart 3000 to create note cards.



AlphaSmart Tip: Use Get Utility or the AlphaHub and AlphaSmart Manager to send the note card format to each AlphaSmart 3000.

5. Visit Xcursion (<http://www.xcursioncentral.com/index.cfm>) to complete the teacher-prepared “Searching for the Future” online excursion. Remind the students to add to their notes on their AlphaSmart and make bibliography cards for each site they use.
6. Students will open a new file and write their outlines on their AlphaSmart independently.
7. Conference with students to discuss outlines and needed changes.
8. Students will then produce a rough draft, self-edit and have a peer edit this rough draft using checklist/rubrics.
9. Conference with the teacher to discuss needed changes in their paper.
10. Students will use the AlphaSmart to type their research paper in a new file, download it to a computer, make any needed changes, and print out a copy. The teacher will use a rubric to grade the student’s research paper.
11. Give the students a copy of the PowerPoint presentation requirement rubric and discuss what is expected of them. Students will pair up with their peer partner/group to plan and design a PowerPoint presentation consisting of a minimum of ten slides that will show what they have learned about their chosen careers in their research. One slide will include a graph showing salary increments for weekly, monthly, yearly.
12. Students use the AlphaSmart files to design the written content for each of the slides they are responsible for making.
13. Students send text from AlphaSmart to the PowerPoint presentation, add graphics, and edit.
14. Students present their project using the teacher’s computer, SMART board, and projector.

**Extension ideas:**

An extension to this project will be a “Wax Museum” simulation. Students will prepare a short summary on the AlphaSmart explaining their chosen career and gather props appropriate for the career. This will be downloaded to the computer, edited, and printed out on 5 x 8 index cards. After a dress rehearsal, students will participate in the “Wax Museum” simulation as a wax figure that comes to life when someone stops in front of his or her area. The student will then tell the visitor about their career.

**Home-to-school connection:**

Students write an invitation to parents/family members to join them during the Wax Museum.