

BEYOND TALENT: TURNING YOUR STRENGTHS INTO A FUTURE CAREER

Choosing a future career is one of the most important decisions young people begin to think about during secondary school. Some students already have a clear professional goal, while others are still exploring different possibilities. In either case, understanding personal talents, skills and interests can be a useful starting point. However, a successful career is not based on talent alone. It also requires effort, curiosity, adaptability and a willingness to keep learning.

Valeria: A Passion for Communication

Valeria is a fifth-year secondary student who has always enjoyed communicating with others. She is confident when speaking in public, writes short articles for her school magazine and likes organizing community activities. These experiences have helped her develop communication, leadership and teamwork skills. Valeria is interested in journalism because she wants to investigate social issues and share reliable information. She knows journalists need to be responsible, objective and willing to listen to different points of view. She plans to study communication and gain practical experience before choosing a specific area of journalism.

Mateo: A Future in Environmental Engineering

Mateo has a different set of interests. He enjoys mathematics, science and solving practical problems. Recently, he worked with classmates on a project that used recycled materials to create a simple model of a water filter. The project increased his interest in environmental engineering. Mateo believes engineers can contribute to solving problems such as water pollution and limited access to clean water. Although he is good at logical reasoning, he understands that he must improve his research, collaboration and problem-solving skills. He is exploring university programs and looking for opportunities to participate in science projects.

Camila: Creativity Meets Technology

Meanwhile, Camila is passionate about music and technology. She can play the guitar, create digital recordings and edit short videos. She is considering a career in audio production or digital media. Some people have advised her to choose a more traditional profession, but Camila believes creative industries also offer opportunities for people with technical knowledge and original ideas. She is researching different careers, talking to professionals and learning about the skills required in each field. She recognizes that creative work involves deadlines, feedback and continuous practice.

Your Future Starts with Your Decisions

These students show that there is no single path to professional success. A personal interest may develop into a skill, and a skill may become part of a future career. Nevertheless, career decisions should not be based only on what someone enjoys doing. It is also important to consider personal values, working conditions, educational opportunities and the needs of society. Talking to professionals, researching career options and trying new activities can help students make informed decisions.

Ultimately, discovering your strengths is not about comparing yourself with others. It is about recognizing what you can do, identifying what you want to improve and taking realistic steps toward your goals. Talents may open opportunities, but commitment, learning and responsible decisions help turn those opportunities into meaningful achievements.

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Choose the correct option.

1. Which skills has Valeria developed through her school activities?

A. Research, programming and engineering.

B. Communication, leadership and teamwork.

C. Music production and video editing.

D. Mathematics, science and logical reasoning.

2. What experience increased Mateo's interest in environmental engineering?

A. Writing articles for the school magazine.

B. Organizing community activities.

C. Creating a model of a water filter with recycled materials.

D. Recording and editing digital music.

3. Which careers is Camila considering?

A. Journalism and public relations.

B. Environmental engineering and science.

C. Teaching and community development.

D. Audio production or digital media.

4. What can be inferred about Valeria's understanding of journalism?

A. Journalists should report only stories they personally agree with.

B. Journalism requires responsibility and openness to different perspectives.

C. Public speaking is the only skill a journalist needs.

D. She has already chosen one specific area of journalism.

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5. Why is Mateo exploring university programs and science projects?

A. He wants to avoid working with other students.

B. He is confirming his interests and developing skills related to his career goal.

C. He believes practical experience is unnecessary.

D. He wants to change his interests completely.

6. What does Camila's situation suggest about choosing a career?

A. Young people should ignore all advice.

B. Creative careers do not require technical knowledge.

C. It is useful to research career options instead of relying only on other people's opinions.

D. Traditional professions are always better than creative professions.

Answer the questions.

7. Which conclusion is best supported by the article?

8. A student enjoys helping people and is interested in health sciences, but is unsure about becoming a nurse, a doctor or a physiotherapist. What would be the most responsible next step?

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