

# The Automation of Work and Work of Automation

## Career Profiles

Collaborating with a group of your classmates, you will create a profile of career of interest to you. The profile will be a short video or other digital media deliverable. The goal of this profile will be to communicate a vivid and visceral understanding of how this career can be meaningful, advice for preparing for the career, and what the future of work in this career holds. Your audience will be students like you who are just starting out—first-year students at universities and community colleges. To complete this assignment, you will complete milestones throughout class that build toward the Career Profiles.

Assignment	How will this contribute to the Career Profile?	Submit as a Team or Individual	Points
<b>Project plan</b>	Effective teams meta-communicate. That is, they talk about how they will communicate and develop shared expectations.	Team	20
<b>Interview protocol</b>	You'll build on the rough interview questions we provide to tailor your approach. The Career Profile should feature insights from the field. Consider asking if you may record your interviews for inclusion in your Career Profiles digital media deliverables.	Team	10
<b>Career context</b>	Your Career Profile should also draw on available statistics about the state of the career.	Team	20
<b>Conduct interviews and submit notes</b>	Once you have completed your interviews, we ask that you share your notes and recordings.	Team	20
<b>Mid-project progress report</b>	After you've completed the preparatory work, we'll ask you to reflect on how your project is going, how your team is working together, and what you can do personally to help your team take it to the next level.	Individual	10
<b>Craft a storyboard</b>	Each person on the team will create a 1-page sketch of how to organize the content and visuals in your final submission. The team will select one or integrate elements from each of them.	Individual	40
<b>Team check in</b>	As you head toward the final part of the assignment, you will talk together about how it is going and what to do next.	Team	20
<b>Career Profiles</b>	The final deliverable!	Team	100
<b>Slack discussion of profiles</b>	You'll share your work and get to see the work of the other teams, and you'll discuss them and ask questions about them.	Individual	30
<b>Post-project Reflection</b>	You will reflect on the assignment as a whole highlighting key takeaways for you for the future.	Individual	30
			300

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## Project Plan

Effective teams meta-communicate. That is, they talk about how they will communicate and develop shared expectations. They also spend time making sure they understand the work they are going to undertake and identify who is going to do what when. But the key idea is that this assignment is only half about the plan. **It's about talking with each other about how you will work together.**

To complete the career profiles at the core of this project, your team needs to start by selecting confirming the career domain you will investigate. It should be a domain of interest to everyone to some degree. Even if it is not the career you plan to take for yourself, you can make it relevant to you by considering and including in your analysis how your planned career path or paths might intersect or mirror the one the team is investigating.

To complete this assignment, post a brief paragraph in Canvas that describes the career that your team will study.

Along with this paragraph, please also formalize your plan for working together. Your high-level plan should include:

1. how you will communicate,
2. what your shared expectations about communication are,
3. who is going to do what moving forward,
4. what skills does each team member have that might contribute to the project,
5. when you plan to meet,
6. who will take points on the key deliverables for the project,
7. when you plan to complete key project elements, and
8. what to do if you need help.

Note that completing this plan (especially #5) will require reading through the entire project assignment description and taking note of the deadlines.

## Interview Protocol

Effective interviews cultivate a research conversation between the interviewer and interviewee. You are trying to encourage the interviewee to tell you stories about their work. As you think about the sort of content you will want to include in your final project, you want to make sure that you have asked the questions you need to ask. At the same time, your time will be limited. You should also consider asking the interviewee if you can use a recording of your interview or their headshot or other photos in your final submission. Anyone (including you) whose likeness or voice appears in the final submission will need to complete a Video and Audio release.

The interview protocol is the questions you will ask, but it's also a plan for how to handle all this. How will you describe your project? How will you transition among questions? What is the right order of the questions? Who will do the asking? Does the wording make sense when said aloud?

Here's a list of questions I recommend:

1. When you describe your job to your friends, what do you tell them?
2. What's the key to doing your job well?
3. Why is communication important in your work? Can you give me an example or tell me a story of a recent story that captures those ideas?
4. What information communication technologies are important in your work with patients?
5. How do you think that the technology you use in your work is changing?
6. What does the future of this sort of work look like? Will it be affected by advances in artificial intelligence? Could your work be automated?
7. If you were just starting out as a first year student heading down this same career path, what advice would you give yourself?

One way to finalize your protocol is to test it out. Try out your questions in a role-played interview.

To complete this assignment, submit the interview protocol your team plans to use via Canvas.

## Career Context

Organizations such as professional associations for the career under study, think-tanks, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will provide helpful, context-setting information about its state and direction. For example, here's the BLS page for [community health workers](#) and here's a [CDC](#) page about the career. The team should gather this information and share it with each other.

To complete this assignment, produce a 2-page summary of the state of the career that draws on this information. Be sure to cite all of your sources using an established style guide (e.g., APA, MLA).

## Interviews and Notes

We ask that you complete three interviews with practicing professionals in the career under study. Consider trying to interview individuals at different stages in their careers including just starting out (less than six months), mid-career (3-6 years), and more senior folks (6+ years). After you have completed your interviews, please submit your notes from them in Canvas to complete this assignment. You may submit your notes as well as the transcript created by Zoom if you use Zoom for the interviews.

## Mid-semester Progress Report

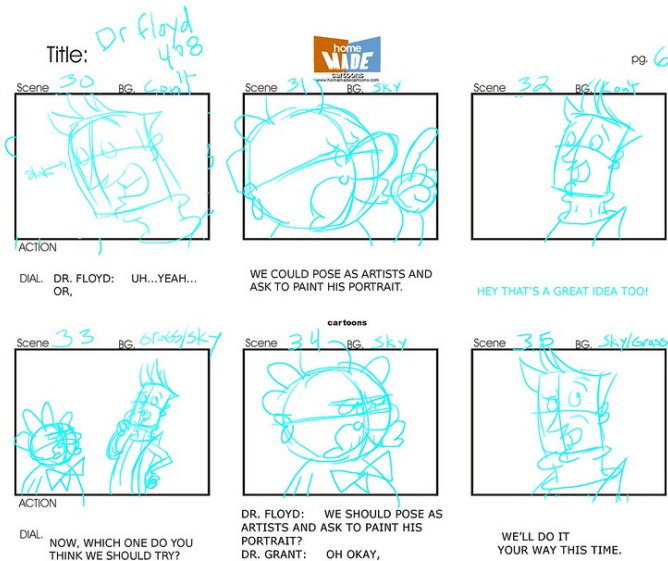
To complete this assignment, write a post on Canvas that addresses these questions:

- How is the project is going? Does the team agree? Explain. (Note this question is about the quality of the work being produced. The next question is about your collaboration.)
- How your team is working together? Have you been a leader in this process?
- If you could do this over again, what would you do differently?
- What can you do to help your team take it to the next level?

A couple of sentences per question should be sufficient, but feel free to write more.

## Craft a Storyboard

Submit a short storyboard (1-2 pages) as a proposal for how your team should put together your digital media deliverable. The storyboard format will let you organize the story you want to tell about the career or the argument about it you plan to make. It will let you integrate the visual, textual, and spoken elements. It should be a rough plan not the final deliverable. Sketches and short descriptions are fine. Your storyboard should communicate the story you want to share, how you will organize it, the sort of visual elements you plan to use, and so forth, but do not worry about making it perfect. It's a sketch not a painting.



As inspiration, I recommend this TED talk by Scott McCloud (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXYckRgsdJl>). He's the author of *Understanding Comics*, an incredible explication of how comics organize visual and text elements to tell stories.

This article at Open Culture is also great: *How Storyboarding Works: A Brief Introduction to How Ridley Scott, Alfred Hitchcock, Martin Scorsese, Wes Anderson & Other Directors Storyboard Their Films* <https://www.openculture.com/2020/09/how-storyboarding-works.html>

A storyboard for *The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd* episode #408 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tmray02/1440415101/> CC BY-SA 2.0 from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storyboard>

For inspiration here are a few additional more concrete resources to consult:

- <https://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Storyboard>
- <https://nofilmschool.com/storyboarding-tips>
- <https://submarinechannel.com/top5/storyboarding-tips-from-john-nevarez/>
- <https://blog.pond5.com/6727-something-sketchy-a-beginners-guide-to-storyboarding/>

**Have fun with this assignment!** Again, don't get hung up on the perfect visuals. Communicate your proposal and have fun doing it.

## Team Check In

In your team's project discussion space you will be discussing where you are in your teamwork and in the project.

Step 1: You should answer each of these questions to start. (Be sure to answer each one in your initial post.)

1. How is the project is going? Are you getting the work done that you need to get done?
2. Is it high quality work?
3. How your team is working together?
4. How did plan you created weeks ago unfold? How should it be updated?
5. If you could do start over again at this point, what would the team do differently?
6. What can the team do to finish strong?

When you complete Step 1, simply submit a text box with a statement like "All set" for this discussion.

Step 2: As a team come up with a list of next steps. Look over where everyone thinks the group stands. Post a plan for where you go from here.

- Each member of the team should be accountable for some part of the project and it should be indicated on the list.
- You should have a specific timeline for when each piece will be completed.
- You should talk about what you're going to do if the plan falls apart.

To complete this part, post your list of next steps on your team's discussion space with deadlines and lead team members' names listed too. Once you have your final version, let the instructional team know.

## Career Profile Video

In this assignment, you will tell the story of the caregiving career under study. The goal of this profile will be to **communicate a vivid and visceral understanding of how this career can be meaningful, advice for preparing for the career, and what the future of work in this career holds.** The video or other creative, digital media deliverable should tell a brief (approximately 3-5 minute) and compelling story of what it means to work in that career. Imagine that you are pitching this career to students like you but just a bit more junior such as first-years at universities and community colleges.

Here is the rubric we will use to evaluate your work along with the grading criteria in the syllabus:

### \_\_\_\_\_/30 **Assignment Requirements Met**

We will evaluate first if your submission meets the requirements. It should

- Be 3-5 minutes in length or take 3-5 minutes for the typical person to complete,
- Be a video or other digital media deliverable,
- Communicate how this career can be meaningful, advice for preparing for the career, and what the future of work in this career holds (KEY!), and

\_\_\_\_\_/Communicate with us about the best way to turn in your work if it cannot be submitted as a file. The teaching team will post it in our shared discussion space on your team's behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_/Along with the Profile itself, you need to submit releases for any individuals who appear in video or audio. Submit electronic copies of those directly to the instructional team via email.

### \_\_\_\_\_/30 **Compelling Story of the Career**

The Profile should offer viewers helpful information about the career and tell compelling stories. It should effectively communicate how this career can be meaningful, advice for preparing for the career, and what the future of work in this career holds. It should offer specific examples and statistics drawing on your interviews and research. It should make clear the source of any statistics. Along with the Profile, you may submit a list of resources and references used like the credits from a film, but do not include interviewee names without their permission.

### \_\_\_\_\_/20 **Connect to Course Content and Themes**

The Profile should use course material to help frame and build the story you are telling. It should reference course themes and ideas at least indirectly.

### \_\_\_\_\_/20 **Creative and Visually Impressive**

The Profile should be creative and well done. Take risks in putting it together. We do not have any particular stylistic requirements. Just keep your submissions PG-rated and appropriate for your target audience. We welcome innovative approaches. We will evaluate submissions that take creative risks more favorably than those that are competent but ho-hum.

We will evaluate if the Profile

- demonstrates creative effort,
- holds together stylistically in a way that should resonate with your audiences, and
- makes effective use of your chosen medium.

## Resources for Making the Career Profile

There are many free or inexpensive tools out there that will enable you to make a wonderful profile. We're looking for creativity with great storytelling and argumentation not professional polish per se.

Apple's iMovie is a free easy to use video editor that works on the iPhone. <https://www.apple.com/imovie/> Learn more here: [https://support.apple.com/kb/PH14564?locale=en\\_US](https://support.apple.com/kb/PH14564?locale=en_US) and here: <https://www.apple.com/iphone/photography-how-to/> And, check out these alternatives for Android users: <https://alternativeto.net/software/imovie/?platform=android>

Check out these incredible movies shot on mobile devices for inspiration: <https://variety.com/2018/film/news/unsane-tangerine-films-iphones-1202730676/> Or, take inspiration from your fellow students! <https://www.cnn.com/videos/entertainment/2017/12/19/college-exam-day-fail.hln>

Screen-Cast-o-Matic is a great, free screen capture tool that you could use to create a presentation with audio and video elements. <https://screencast-o-matic.com> Along with Microsoft Powerpoint and Apple's Keynote applications, Google offers free presentation software <https://docs.google.com/presentation> and Prezi is a fun presentation web application too <https://prezi.com>.

The Adobe Creative Cloud Suite has special pricing for students (<https://sites.utexas.edu/moodytech/2017/09/12/special-student-pricing-for-adobe-creative-cloud/>), but it is still pretty expensive (\$74.99 last time I checked). Consider open source, free alternatives (<https://ctl.illinoisstate.edu/technology/adobe/>).

If you want advice for how to use these technologies, consult LinkedIn Learning, a skill-building platform. (I've used this myself!)

This short course about storytelling by Schulman is a wonderful one. <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/storytelling-for-business-video/welcome?u=36306084>

Here's another by Harauz on the use of the mobile phones for creating short films: <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/creating-online-video-with-the-iphone/welcome?u=36306084>

## Discussion of Profiles

After you complete the Career Profile, we will share them with your classmates via our shared discussion space. Just like our typical discussions, we will ask you to engage with each other's ideas and work. As an individual, you will be responsible for engaging other teams and for responding to their questions and notes for your team. See our shared discussion space for specific instructions.

## Post-Project Reflection

To complete this assignment, write submit a note that addresses these questions:

- What do you think of what the team produced? (This question asks you to focus on the work you produced not the quality of the team's collaboration. That's below.)
  - What about the Profile worked well?
  - What did not work well? (Nothing we create is perfect, but this question isn't about you criticizing your grading your own work. Instead, highlight what you would want to build on in what you produced if you were to do this again.)
- Looking back, how did the team collaborate?
  - Were your efforts to improve the teams' work products and collaboration effective? Why or why not?
  - The next time you work on a team, what will you do differently?
- What did you learn from this assignment that you could not have learned from lecture?