**Reflective Writing Assignment- Faculty Instructions**

**Module 2: How to Make a Career Decision**

This assignment will help students to further process the information in this module and explore the personal applications of it. Choose one or more of the prompts below for students to respond to, choose a minimum length you want the paper to be, and any format guidelines you want them to follow.

***Prompts Just Based on the Module:***

**Prompt Option 1 – Your Career Choice:**

*If you have already decided upon a career path, discuss the following topics:*

* Describe the process of making your career decision in as much detail as possible. What steps did you take? What factors did you consider? What kinds of things influenced your decision (could be internal factors as well as external influences)? How confident do you feel in your choice? Do you feel like you did all the right things to make the best possible career decision?

*If you are still working on deciding on a career path, discuss the following topics:*

* After learning about Step 1 of the Career Planning Process in this module and how to make a career decision, discuss what you have already done and what you have not yet done in the process of trying to decide upon a career. Do you feel that you’ve thoroughly assessed your interests, abilities, and values? If not, what can you do to assess them? What obstacles or challenges do you feel like you face in making a career decision? What can you do, or what would help you to overcome those challenges?

**Prompt Option 2 – Passion vs. Practicality:** Discuss the messages you’ve received about the importance of either pursuing your passion or pursuing a career for practical reasons, and how these messages have influenced your own opinions and beliefs about career choice. (You may have received messages about choosing a career from family, friends, teachers, coaches, advisors, the media, your church, community members, etc.). Have your opinions about how to choose a career changed as a result of completing this module? Why or why not?

***Prompts Based on In-Class Activities as well as the Module:***

**Prompt Option 1 – Personal Interests and Career Interests Reflection:**

* Discuss your feelings and beliefs about whether personal interests and career interests are or should be the same, different, or interrelated things. Did your views change at all after listening to the perspectives of your classmates in the classroom discussion?
* Consider the hobbies you wrote down on the “Your Hobbies and Your Career” worksheet, and choose what you would consider to be your favorite hobby. Elaborate on WHY it would or would not be ideal for you to make this hobby into a career, referencing points made in the classroom discussion (in addition to details specific to you and the situation). Based on the characteristics of this hobby you enjoy that you identified on the worksheet, what other types of careers might have those characteristics?

**Prompt Option 2 – Greatest Accomplishments Reflection – Abilities:** Choose one of your greatest accomplishments you listed on the “Greatest Accomplishments and Your Abilities” worksheet. Discuss the skills you identified that you used in accomplishing that thing, and whether each one is a skill or ability you would like to be able to use in a career or not. Explain why you would or would not want to use each skill in a career.

**Prompt Option 3 – Greatest Accomplishments Reflection – Values:** While the “Greatest Accomplishments and Your Values” worksheet you completed focused on your abilities (via the skills you used to accomplish those things), you might remember from the module that thinking about your greatest accomplishments can also be a way to assess your values. Choose two of the three accomplishments you wrote down, and elaborate on why each was a satisfying accomplishment for you (what about it makes you proud to have done it). Discuss what you think this might say about your work values and the things that would give you satisfaction in a career.

**Prompt Option 4 – Tough Decisions Reflection:** Choose the scenario from the Tough Decisions worksheet that you found to be the most difficult, and explain why that would be a difficult decision if you found yourself in that situation. Elaborate on what it says about your values that this would be a tough choice for you. Which of your values are coming into conflict? If this is a real-life decision for you, also discuss your situation and the factors you are considering (or did consider) in trying to make a choice.

**Prompt Option 5 – Values Auction Reflection:** The values auction you participated in simulated some of the realities of career choice – primarily, the reality that you are unlikely to be able to get everything you want in a career, and therefore must prioritize your values and plan for how to get those that will give you the most satisfaction. Discuss your experience with the values auction. How did you prioritize the listed values? Did you decide to go for one value that was far more important than anything else, or try to spread your money out to get a blend of a few things that are important? Explain how you decided upon a strategy, and how your prioritization of values in this activity relates to your real career choice.