



A personal note from one teacher to another

YOUR ROLE AS A MENTOR

In the role you play as an educator, one of your chief goals is to place your students on the road to career success. Vocational Biographies can help by providing you with fun-to-read, real-life career success stories that inspire and enlighten. You show your students careers through the eyes of a real person.

Each career biography is a lively short story, written in newspaper style with colorful photos. By chronicling a person's path up the career ladder, Vocational Biographies harnesses the power that biography holds — the power to inspire and learn from the real-life experiences of others.

Each career biography is also a job-shadowing experience you can provide in-house — without all the hassle of going off-site. The story invites the reader to come along for a day at work — a day that often includes boring routine, humorous incidents, a crisis, and a glimpse at on-the-job relationships.

VOCATIONAL BIOGRAPHIES —

Easy to Read. Each career biography is written in the most widely read format — newspaper feature style.

Entertaining and Effective. Real people make career information come alive and present career facts more effectively.

Unique but Still Universal. While each career biography is a unique, colorful story, generic facts are listed in the data file section.

Always Current. Our writers are continuously interviewing people across the country — in hot careers, in new careers, and in traditional careers — so the information remains current and relevant.

Expanded Career Horizons. Career stories come from every part of the country, so readers can explore hundreds of careers you won't find locally.

To: My Colleagues

From: Jone Meyer, Editor-in-Chief
and Former English Teacher

“What does an Art Teacher do?”

1. Art teachers explain and demonstrate to students various creative techniques, like how to draw, how to paint with oils, acrylics, and pastels, and how to sculpt with clay. They also may teach computer graphics, using programs like Photoshop. Then they guide the students as they apply these techniques to their own artworks.

2. Yesterday, Mark had asked his second-hour, seventh-grade class to sketch an arrangement of bronze mums, lemon grass, and cattails. Today he told them to paint their sketches with tempera. Walking around the room as they worked, he praised Emma, who had captured the arrangement exactly and was now matching its colors perfectly. But Aaron had a different vision. His mums were lopsided and blue. His cattails looked like orange hot dogs on a stick, and his lemon grass shot out of the vase in brilliant turquoise streaks. “Charming, Aaron,” Mark commented. “Those colors really bring your drawing to life.” Just then Kyle knocked green paint all over Maggie’s drawing. She screamed and punched him. John, easily distracted by a fight, went to Kyle’s defense, skidding through the green paint puddling on the floor. Mark expertly intervened — but the class still had 25 minutes to go.

Paragraph 1 comes from a respected career reference book.

Paragraph 2 comes from a career biography. They provide the same information. **Which will you remember?**

Every career biography in Vocational Biographies **creates lasting impressions.** For example, tell students they need writing skills for most occupations. They might not believe you — until they read the story of the auto mechanic who wishes he had learned to write more clearly because he constantly is writing estimates, diagnoses, and repair instructions.

Or tell adults to **look outside the box** for a new career. They are clueless — until they read about the crime scene cleaner who has more work than he can handle or the woman who drives children where they need to go when their parents are working or the bat remover who’s in great demand for ridding homes of bats without killing them.

Whomever you guide, Vocational Biographies **makes your job easier.** In our files, we have hundreds of letters, all saying in effect: “Where were you when I was in school?” Well, we’re here to help you. Give us a try.