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ACTIVITY 43

Elements of the Work Environment: Survey for Self-Analysis Paper

Purpose of this unit: This unit gives you experience in evaluating the importance of environment in choosing a career. Some environments are glamorous and some are not. In some careers the nature of the work dictates the environment, but in many cases the environment will vary with the particular place where you choose to work. There are times you can use the same skill in many different environments. People vary in how much they care about the environment or conditions in which they work. It is important to know what bothers you, what you can tolerate, and what kind of environment you would really enjoy if you had the choice.

Directions: For each element of the work environment listed, circle the description that most appeals to you. Under those descriptions you did not choose, explain why you would not want to work in that type of environment.

NOISE LEVEL

Continual Noise	Comfortable Noise	Noiseless Isolation

CLIMATE

Fairly Cold to Cold	Comfortable Temperature	Hot to Very Hot

(continued)

ATMOSPHERE

Friendly, Informal Setting (casual dress, first-name basis)	Informal and Formal Settings	Formal Setting (dress in suits, uniforms, don't use first names)

DISTANCE TO TRAVEL

A Few Blocks or Even Less	10–45 Miles to the Job Daily	Long Distance (even hundreds of miles or more)

WORK SITE

Completely Outdoors	Both Outdoors and Indoors	Completely Indoors

(continued)

LOCATION

Big City	Suburb/Middle-Size City	Small Town or Rural

SIZE OF COMPANY

Large Corporation	Average-Size Company	Small Company

STRUCTURE OF TASKS

Experimental, Lots of Variety	Some Change from Day to Day	Routine, Very Few Changes

ACTIVITY 53

Commitment Self-Inventory

Purpose of this unit: It is important to help you see how commitments vary with different jobs. People may be so caught up in the value of their work and/or the satisfaction they receive that they willingly endure working conditions that may be far from ideal. This may mean the person puts herself or himself at risk physically, emotionally, financially, and/or socially. You will have the opportunity to focus on commitments that are important to you and see how they relate to different careers.

Directions: Read each statement and answer yes or no. There are no right or wrong answers; your answers will be based on your own values, personality, and interests. Answer the last three questions in your own words.

1. Do you stick to tasks when doing things that are difficult?	Yes _____	No _____
2. Do you have a tendency to finish what you start?	Yes _____	No _____
3. Do you tend to do your best at your schoolwork?	Yes _____	No _____
4. Do you tend to do your best with work at home?	Yes _____	No _____
5. Do you do things for others without expecting something in return?	Yes _____	No _____
6. Do you volunteer to do something in a situation where you might not get any recognition?	Yes _____	No _____
7. Would you be willing to work long and hard, get little pay, but really feel good because you are helping others?	Yes _____	No _____

(continued)

8. Would you be willing to work daily with the terminally ill?	Yes _____	No _____
9. Do you do work around your home without expecting or wanting to be paid in some manner or another?	Yes _____	No _____
10. Would you be willing to work with people who have real problems that cause a lot of pain to themselves or others?	Yes _____	No _____
11. Would you be willing to work in a slum or poor section of a city?	Yes _____	No _____
12. Would you be willing to continue your training while working full time in order to move up on the job ladder?	Yes _____	No _____
13. Would you be willing to start out at lower pay to gain experience if it means higher pay later?	Yes _____	No _____
14. Would you be willing to go to school for one to four years to get a job you'd really like?	Yes _____	No _____
15. Would you be willing to have a job knowing you'd never get any praise?	Yes _____	No _____
16. Would you be willing to work long, hard hours because the job demands it, yet your pay is quite low?	Yes _____	No _____

(continued)

A. What is a commitment?

B. What are some commitments you have already made in your own life?

C. Circle the number of your yes responses.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

The more yes answers you have, the higher the probability that you might be the kind of person who gains satisfaction from careers in which a person might be asked or required to give up some of the pleasures of life. Explain why you feel you may or may not be this type of person.
