

Biotechnology Career Research E-Project

Background: At a large biotechnology company like Genentech, Inc. there are over 8000 employees. The majority of them are scientific staff including scientists, research associates, and technicians. Most of these work in labs or manufacturing facilities. Many employees at biotech companies though, serve in administrative or support roles. These include employees in public relations, accounting, computer services, human resources, library services, marketing, packaging, shipping, legal services, to name a few. Many positions are filled with clerks and administrative assistants. Biotechnology companies are looking for employees specifically trained to fill all these positions. No matter whether a position is considered scientific or not, potential employees with training and experience in biotechnology will be more attractive to these companies.

Purpose:

- To demonstrate the wide-diversity of available biotechnology-related careers.
- To e-visit a biotechnology facility or website.
- To observe a fact-finding interview with a professional.
- To gather information and present it to your colleagues.

Procedures:

1. Working in pairs, pick a career that you'd like to investigate or your instructor will assign one.
2. Visit one or more of the following websites. Each features video clips with employees of biotechnology companies:
 - <http://www.accessexcellence.org>, then click on the "Resource Center" link, then click on the Career Center, "In Their Own Words" link. Finally, under Career Guides: Biotechnology, click on the "Career Profiles" link.
 - <http://www.pathwaystotechnology.org/>, then click on the "Success Stories" link, then find a career professional and click on their photo. Click on Video "Watch Now."
 - <http://www.careerinfonet.org/> then click on the "Video" link, then click on "Download Videos" and choose "Sorenson Quicktime" for Format. Choose "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." Finally, choose one of the dozen or so biotechnology careers featured. Check with your instructor if you unsure whether or not a career is in biotechnology.
3. View one or more videos of employees in "your" profession. Following the guidelines below, use this information and other information gathered on the Internet to create a poster presentation about "your" profession. Record the websites used.
4. Find a company that employs professionals of the type you are studying. Go the homepage of the company, find out where it is located and what products or services the company provides. Use the information on the poster. Record the website.
5. **Oral/Poster Presentation** – Prepare an oral presentation for your colleagues (the class) describing the job duties, skills, training, education, and the pros and cons of the biotech career you studied. The oral presentation should be no longer than 5 minutes and should explain your poster and the information you collected.
6. Your **poster** should include:
 - Job duties (may be a typical day in the life)
 - Training and educational requirements of the profession
 - Pros and cons of career
 - Any other interesting other interesting information collected
 - Pictures/photos/diagrams should be included on the poster.
 - A company that would employ a professional of this type (name, title, company, address, website) should also be on the poster.
 - The URLs of the references used.