## Career Planning Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fuzzy Idea</th>
<th>Experiments to Try</th>
<th>New Connections to Make</th>
<th>Reasons It Makes Sense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What am I interested in exploring?</td>
<td>* Volunteer <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Take a class <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Serve on a committee <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Read a book/magazine <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Do pro bono work <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Take contract/temp job <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Find a part-time job <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Try consulting/freelance work <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Attend conferences <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Just start doing it somehow!</td>
<td>* Network <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Do informational interviews <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Talk to recruiters <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Job shadowing <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Talk to professors <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Hang out with people already working in the field <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Find a mentor or role model <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Join associations, groups, and clubs where role models are</td>
<td>* Adds something that was missing <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Next step of progression <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Chance to learn and grow <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Something I’ve always been curious about but haven’t tried yet <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Ends the current drain of “X” <em>&lt;br&gt;</em> Will give me a chance to express my core values</td>
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<td>Alternative career?</td>
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<td>Area of legal practice?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working in a private firm?</td>
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<td>Starting my own practice?</td>
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<td>New way to volunteer?</td>
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### Example:

**Working in environmental law**

- Research Internet sites about environmental law and identify firms in Minnesota with this focus. Pick my top 5-10 list for clerking.
- See if there are magazines, newsletters, journals or professional groups I can join to learn more about environmental law.
- Do a research paper for a class in this area to gain a greater understanding of issues.
- Take an elective class in the area of environmental law.
- Apply for a summer job or internship with the Dept. of Natural Resources, EPA or MN Environmental Advocates.
- Check the job books and online job links in the Career Development Office to apply for clerkships.
- Take CLEs related to environmental law.
- Send resumes to targeted organizations to ask about clerkships. Follow up with a phone call.

- Do informational interview with five attorneys in different firms, businesses, or with government agencies that deal with environmental law issues. Get referrals from them.
- Ask if I can job shadow an attorney in a firm for a day.
- Volunteer to be on a committee with a professional association with environmental law issues as a central focus.
- Talk to parents, friends, professors and classmates to see if they have any connections with firms or individuals or have suggestions.
- Sign up for an alumni mentor who practices in this area.
- Read articles from journals on the area and contact the writer of an article to learn more and get other referrals/contacts.

- It allows me to focus on an area of law that I feel passionate about.
- Clerking with any firm or organization will give me practical experience needed to be an effective lawyer.
- This is an opportunity to explore whether environmental law is the area for me.
- A chance to also explore the type of setting I want to work in.
### Career Development: Career Planning Worksheet: Page Two

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<td>What would I like to explore further?</td>
<td>How can I actually try it out?</td>
<td>Who can I talk to that is already doing it? Where can I hang out with them?</td>
<td>How would I explain why this makes sense in light of what I used to do?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Idea #1**

**Idea #2**


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