

# STUDENT BOOKLET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Entering the workforce... a new reality!

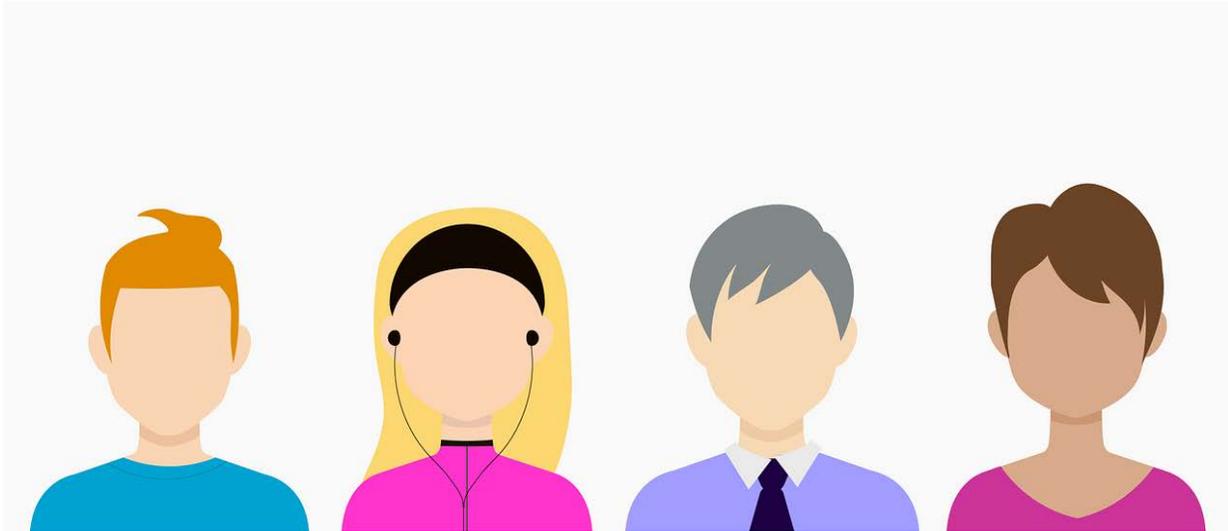


### Personal perceptions and the reality of the world of work:

Verify personal perceptions regarding the reality and requirements of the world of work

2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of secondary cycle 2

Translation of the document created by Karyne Collin and Nathalie Roy, guidance counselors



## The world of work...

The world of work is a vast world in which you may have already entered or are to enter. For the majority of us, entering the world of work is experienced through our first student job (one the weekends or in the summer). Then, we continue on our journey, pursuing the profession or trade of our choice...

At this time in your life, the world of work undoubtedly seems mysterious or complex to you, and you inevitably have perceptions or questions about it. In addition, you are surely concerned about integrating well into this world by responding to what it requires and what is requested by employers in order to integrate yourself positively within it.

The activity presented to you will allow you to check your perceptions in relation to the reality and demands of the world of work. Each person has different perceptions, but it is essential to not rely solely on our perception and to ensure that what we think, believe or do makes sense and is verified by reliable sources.

## PART 1 : Our perceptions and the world of work...



To prepare you to better understand what a *perception* is, here are two situations in which we ask you, in a team of three people, to discuss the *perception* you have of each of them. You will be able to record the main observations by answering the questions.

### Situation #1 :

Simon has been working in fast food for four months. His duties consist mainly of providing customer service at the cash register, taking orders and delivering them to customers once they are prepared and ready to go. As it is a very popular restaurant, the pace of work is fast and there is a lot of business. One evening, Simon's employer left a note asking him to clean up after the restaurant closed because one of the two people who had to be there for this task called in sick. There are various tasks to consider when working in this restaurant.

How do you perceive Simon's job?

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What do you think Simon's hourly wage is?

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### Situation #2 :

Your cousin tells you about her work as a graphic designer which requires a lot of imagination and creativity. The graphic design agency that employs her has many clients and is well recognized. This company hires several graphic designers. Your cousin meets various clients and must provide proofs (sketches) of the projects she works on. She explains to you that she often has to work long hours to meet the demands and requirements of her clients as well as her employer. However, she tells you that there are weeks when there is less work due to a drop in demand. Your cousin ends by saying that she does not always find her job easy, but is very happy to work in the arts.

What is your perception of this job?

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What do you think your cousin's working conditions are (ex. : salary, schedule, overtime, pension, holiday, etc.)?

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**In a small team, you were able to share and discuss your perceptions and those of your colleagues in relation to each of the situations...** Let's push the reflection a little further individually now! Here are four questions that will allow you to deepen certain aspects of the notion of “perception” and thus better prepare you for the next activities:

1. What stands out to you regarding the group discussion you had?

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2. In your own words, what is a *perception*?

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3. How do you explain the fact that everyone can have a different perception of the same situation?

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4. What pops into your mind when you think about the world of work and its requirements?

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## Perception or reality...



In light of the reflections you have made alone and as a team, you have no doubt noticed that each person makes their interpretation (constructs their perception) according to their experiences, according to what they know, what they hear from their friends and family, and according to what they understand to be true. Each person can describe a situation in a different way, but which one reflects the reality? It is easy to believe that there can be a gap between perception and reality...

But what about your perceptions concerning the reality and the demands of the world of work?

To begin this next section, we invite you to discuss and produce, as a group, a list of perceptions that feed your representation of the world of work.

To do this, name themes, perceptions, and questions related to the world of work and its requirements. Take note here of the mentioned elements of this group exchange:

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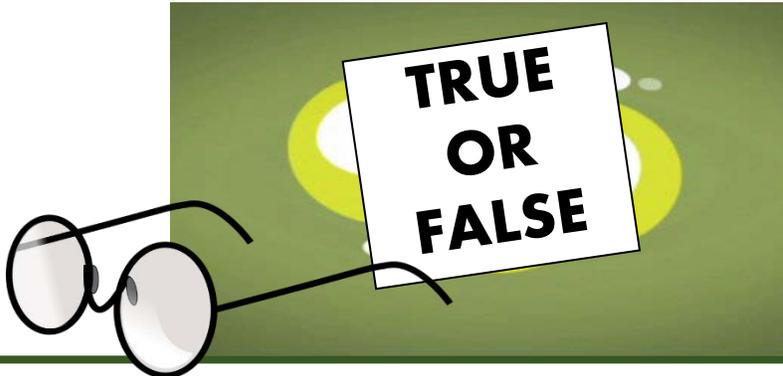
To help you brainstorm, here are some themes that affect the world of work in general. Highlight those that appeal to you and that you think deserve to be explored further!

| Access to the world or work                                  | Working conditions             | Making a difference   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Unions   | Job security                   | Required skillsets  |
| Health & Safety at work                                      | Employment insurance (welfare) | Schedule  |
| Employee/employer relations                                  | Training                       | Salary (taxes and deductions)   |
| Relationship to coworkers (ex. : new hires/senior employees) | Work/life balance              | Forms of work (ex. : freelancers, working from home, self-employment) |

Source: Contenus en orientation scolaire et professionnelle (COSP), deuxième cycle du secondaire, intentions pédagogiques. Direction des services éducatifs complémentaires et de l'intervention en milieu défavorisé (DSECIMD), Ministère de l'éducation du Québec, 2019, p.48

## PART 2 : Verification...

An important step...



**How do I ensure that the information I have reflects reality?**

Remember that the learning strategy used in this activity is “VERIFY.” It allows us to verify our perceptions and ensure that we have more objective and more accurate information regarding the reality and demands of the world of work.

We can verify our perceptions (or information) in different ways. Give some examples:

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**How can I ensure that my source is reliable and valid?**

What steps can you take to ensure that the sources you want to use are reliable and valid? Here are some questions you could ask yourself:

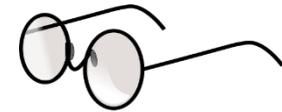
- What are the criteria that will help me verify if my source is reliable?
- Am I using a well-known source?
- Have I consulted more than one source?

Source: Contenus en orientation scolaire et professionnelle (COSP), deuxième cycle du secondaire, intentions pédagogiques. Direction des services éducatifs complémentaires et de l'intervention en milieu défavorisé (DSECIMD), Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, 2019, p. 49.

Now is the time to do some research and check the various perceptions you have built up about the vast world of work! In the table below, write two to three themes (as well as your perceptions) that appeal to you among those that emerged during the large group discussion and among those that you highlighted in the table on page 5 of this booklet.

Then, we invite you to do research using reliable sources (suggested sources at the bottom of the page) to make sure that your perceptions reflect reality. Also, note in the table which sources you consulted.

In closing, write down what you have learned or what you have discovered as a result of your research.



| Themes that interest me and my perception of them                   | The reliable source I used                 | What I've learned/discovered as a result of my research                         |
|---|--|---|
| Ex : <b>Salary</b> I must go to University to get a well-paying job | Discussion with someone working in a trade | I do not necessarily have to go to University in order to get a well-paying job |
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**Suggested sources:**

- Emploi-Québec
- Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail
- Repères
- Academos
- Dictionnaire Septembre des métiers et professions
- Trade union websites
- Job application websites
- Discussion with workers



## Reflection

Following this verification work, what conclusions can you draw? Have your perceptions of the world of work changed? Explain your answer:

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In order to verify your perceptions of the reality and requirements of the world of work, you have done research using various sources to ensure that you have more accurate and objective data. You therefore utilized the “VERIFY” strategy and obtained information that was more in line with reality. Following this learning situation, do you think you will be able to VERIFY your perceptions again for other situations in your life? In what contexts, for example?

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How can having checked your perceptions in relation to the reality of the world of work help you in preparation for your professional life?

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