

## Grade 12 December Part 2

### How to choose a future that's right for you

By this time, many seniors have already decided where they are going and what they will be doing next fall.

They have applied to college or have investigated different jobs.

What about you? Do you know where you want to go next year? Or are you plagued with questions and indecision?

*Should I go to college? Maybe I won't like it. Maybe I'll fail or drop out.*

*What course should I apply for? Maybe I'm not suited for this.*

*Perhaps I should take a year off and travel.*

*Maybe I should find a job and go to work.*

*Maybe I'll just wait and decide next year.*

Realize right now—your decision cannot be put off!

You may have, in fact, already made a decision. You may have decided not to decide. And this is a decision in itself.

### Choosing a direction is important

Everyone finds planning for the future awesome. When students look at the infinity of career and educational possibilities, it becomes particularly confusing. With so many choices open to us, how can we be sure which one is the right one? Right now, we can't!

What we can do, though, is be sure that the direction we choose is the best one for us.

#### School

If you are planning a college education, you need choose no more than one large area of study—arts or sciences. Later, after you have decided which suits you best, you can begin to specialize.

*Arts* is characterized by reading and the written and spoken word. People who are drawn to the arts are interested in reading, in researching topics, in writing essays, or in performing and creating.

*Sciences*, on the other hand, interest people who like the certainty of mathematics and science. These people are more methodical and appreciate the beauty of order and system. They enjoy the demands of precision and accuracy.

#### Work

If you are planning to go directly to work, again group your choices. In the world of work, you have three choices:

- **People-oriented.** Look into the fields of social services—police work, family service agencies, banks.

- **Data-oriented.** Look to the business world—accounting, computer, secretarial.

- **Things-oriented.** Look to technology and industry—mechanics, electronics, cabinet-making.

Breaking down the choices like this makes decision-making easier. In fact, this approach is useful in most decision-making situations.

- First, group the choices into large units.
- Choose a unit.
- Within this unit, re-group components into sub-groups.
- Choose.
- Re-group.
- Choose again.

Before long, you will have the choice that is best for you.

Try it in your current educational and career search. Decide to decide!

*"The measure of choosing well is whether a person likes and finds good in what he has chosen."*

—Lamb