**INTERVIEW COMPONENT OF THE SENIOR CAREER SEMINAR**

Each student is expected to conduct two interviews in connection with his/her Senior Career Seminar process. The notes from these interviews will earn credit as part of your documentation, and quotations from the interviews will be expected as part of your PowerPoint presentation. Most students interview their mentor; the second interview might be another individual at the same work place, or someone in a similar profession from a different work place. Interviews may be conducted in person (preferred), but telephone/email/regular mail interviews are acceptable.

It makes sense to accomplish your interviews at the same time you do your actual job shadowing . This means your interviews would most likely be completed before you begin your 12th grade year. (Some students may need to finish this component during the first few months of grade 12, with completion expected by the first marking period’s end.)

You should have listed the approximately 10 (or more) questions you have asked each person, as well as your notes on their answers. Be sure to also identity the name of the interview subject and an explanation of that person’s connection to your project.

**NOTES REGARDING EFFECTIVE INTERVIEWING:**

Avoid asking “Yes-No” questions (e.g., “Do you like your job?”)

Instead, ask a question that will require elaboration (e.g., “What do you like best about your job?”)

**Sample questions . . .** (you may use these, but be sure to come up with some of your own)

How did you decide to choose this as a career?

How much education did you need, and are you required to continue getting more training in

 your field?

Why would you encourage a teenager to go into (or NOT to go into) your career field?

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

What is the most difficult/frustrating part of your job?

How has your job changed in the past 10 years?

**FINALLY, BE CAREFUL ABOUT . . .** sensitive issues.

For example, instead of asking, “How much money do you make?”

ask, “What would be the expected starting salary for someone just starting out in this career field? What is the salary range for someone with, say, 10 years experience?” If you can sense that your subject feels less than comfortable responding to a question, skip it and go on to the next one.

Also, many times you will get an intriguing quotation by just letting your subject talk! If you get on an interesting topic, encourage your subject (“Tell me more about that!”) and then take notes on what follows.