Prototyping Career Paths & Trying Out New Life Experiments

Overview: Upon completing their three separate Odyssey Plans, students will have explored a diverse array of potential life paths. While each of these plans offers valuable experiences, it is essential to start prototyping these potential outcomes. Follow the directions below to identify and begin experimenting with the experiences you envisioned through your Odyssey Plans.

Step 1 - Review your three separate Odyssey Plans and identify what are the top 5 Achievements, Actions, or Experiences you wish to currently explore and learn more about. These Achievements, Actions, or Experiences can take place at any point throughout your three separate Odyssey Plans.

Ranking	Desired Achievement, Action, or Experience
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Step 2 - What do you need and want to learn more about with your selected concept (achievements, actions, or experiences)?

Desired Achievement, Action, or Experience	What Do You Need to Learn More About Regarding Each Concept
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

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Step 3 - By identifying the top 5 Achievements, Actions, or Experiences you wish to explore, you will now determine what prototyping actions you can select to prototype these options. Read through the following prototyping options:

   a. Extracurricular Activities: Participating in organized activities outside of the regular curriculum to develop skills, explore interests, and enhance personal growth.
   b. Freelancing, Gig Work, Micro-Internship: Taking on freelance projects or temporary gigs related to areas of interest to gain hands-on experience and test out different roles or industries.
   c. Informational Interviews: Conducting interviews with professionals in your field of interest to gain insights, advice, and a better understanding of potential career paths.
   d. Job Shadowing: Spending time observing a professional in their work environment to gain firsthand knowledge of their daily responsibilities and industry practices.
   e. Networking Conferences or Events: Attending professional gatherings to connect with industry experts, exchange ideas, and build a network of contacts.
   f. Side Projects or Passion Projects: Initiating and working on personal projects that align with your interests and passions without needing external approval.
   g. Skill Building Professional Development, Certificates, or LinkedIn Learning: Engaging in courses, workshops, or certification programs to acquire new skills and advance your professional qualifications.
   h. Travel & Cultural Immersion: Traveling to different regions or countries to experience and understand diverse cultures enhances your global perspective and adaptability.
   i. Volunteering: Offering your time and skills to support community service activities, gain valuable experience and contribute to societal well-being.

Review the "Example Scenarios" section on the next page. Then, fill out the table below:

Desired Achievement, Action, or Experience	Action You Selected to Prototype (Extracurricular Activity, Informational Interview, Volunteering, etc.)	Answer the following questions: a. Describe how you will pursue and complete this prototype. b. What do you aim to accomplish through this prototyping action?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

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Example Scenarios -

- Extracurricular Activities - Example: Altonia, a college student majoring in environmental science, joins the campus sustainability club as an extracurricular activity. Through her involvement in the club, she participates in campus clean-up events, organizes educational workshops on sustainability practices, and collaborates with local environmental organizations on community projects. Sarah has gained valuable leadership skills, expanded her network in the environmental field, and discovered her passion for sustainability advocacy.
- Freelancing, Gig Work, Micro-Internship - Example: James, a recent graduate with a degree in graphic design, takes on freelance design projects through online platforms such as Upwork and Fiverr. He designs logos, creates marketing materials, and develops websites for clients across various industries. Through freelancing, James gains hands-on experience working with real clients, honing his design skills, and exploring different niches within the graphic design field.
- Informational Interviews - Example: Alicia, a college student interested in pursuing a career in marketing, conducts informational interviews with professionals working in marketing roles at different companies. She reaches out to alumni, family friends, and LinkedIn connections to request informational interviews. During these interviews, Emily learns about different career paths in marketing, gains insights into industry trends, and receives valuable advice on how to break into the field.
- Job Shadowing - Example: Michael, a college student considering a career in healthcare, participates in a job shadowing program at a local hospital. He spends a day shadowing a nurse in the emergency department, observing patient care, assisting with basic tasks, and asking questions about the nursing profession. Through job shadowing, Michael gains firsthand experience in a healthcare setting, explores potential career paths, and learns about the daily responsibilities of healthcare professionals.
- Networking Conferences or Events - Example: Alex, a young professional working in the tech industry, attends a networking conference focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning. At the conference, he engages with industry experts, attends panel discussions and workshops, and participates in networking sessions. Alex connects with potential mentors, learns about cutting-edge developments in AI, and expands his professional network within the tech community.
- Side Projects or Passion Projects - Example: Amir, a marketing manager at a software company, starts a blog in her free time to share her insights and expertise in digital marketing. She writes articles on topics such as social media marketing, content strategy, and SEO optimization. Through her passion project, Laura builds her personal brand, establishes herself as a thought leader in the industry, and attracts new career opportunities.
- Skill Building Professional Development and/or Certificates - Example: David, a software engineer, enrolls in an online coding bootcamp to enhance his skills in web development. He completes modules on HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and frameworks such as React and Node.js. By earning a certificate from the coding bootcamp, David demonstrates his proficiency in front-end and back-end development, opens up new job opportunities, and advances his career in the tech industry.
- Travel and Cultural Immersion - Example: Amani, a college student majoring in international studies, participates in a study abroad program in Barcelona, Spain. During her semester abroad, she takes courses in Spanish language and culture, explores historical landmarks and museums, and immerses herself in the local community. Maria gains cross-cultural competency, expands her worldview, and develops lifelong friendships with students from around the world.
- Volunteering - Example: Sarah, a college student majoring in psychology, volunteers at a local crisis hotline center to gain experience in the mental health field. She undergoes training to provide support and guidance to individuals experiencing emotional distress, listens to their concerns, and offers resources and referrals. Through volunteering, Sarah hones her communication and empathy skills, gains insight into mental health issues, and solidifies her interest in pursuing a career as a counselor or therapist.

By prototyping these actions, you can gain valuable insights, test out different paths or ideas, and make informed decisions about how to pursue your top achievements, actions, or experiences.