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Career Research Paper

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When looking at my future, I am interested in a welding career. Although welding is only one career path there are lots of different jobs and directions that can be taken within this career. I took a quiz/survey that suggested which welding career would fit your skills, character traits, and work habits best. My results came back that I would be the best fit as a pipeline welder. But, I thought that it would be important to explore some other options.

What I found was that pipeline welder starting pay is \$52,000 with real go-getters making upwards of \$100,000. Some of their daily duties are joining and repairing tubes and pipes as apart of buildings, boats, structures, and pipelines. As such, they are among the most highly skilled and sought after welders (Pipeliner). Most pipeline welders are AWS certified, have a high school diploma, completed some type of apprenticeship program, and have some pipeline welding experience, or are certified in pipeline welding. Some essential skills are, blueprint reading and knowledge of weld symbols, ability to work individually or as a team. Strong math and mechanical skills are also a requirement for pipeline welders. One thing about pipeline welders is, they travel to where the work is, this can mean extensive travel all over the world. This can be a benefit though if you are young and don't have a family.

Another career that I researched is boilermakers, their entry-level pay is \$36,000, and skilled professionals making \$80,000+. Boilermaker's jobs are to fabricate, install, and test boilers,

tanks, vats, and pressure vessels. They also install tubes, fittings and valves, and boiler instrumentation with welding processes. Boilermakers primarily use welding and cutting equipment, but can also utilize tools to fuse, separate, and shape metal plates, sections, and components (Boilermaker). Most boilermakers have a high school diploma, are certified in pipe welding, AWS certified welders, and have completed an apprenticeship. Essential skills are, self-motivation, mechanically inclined, able to work in extreme weather conditions, are also capable of reading blueprints and designs. Most work is done in the field with some local and foreign travel but there are also positions available in shops.

An additional career that interested me is welding inspectors. Most welding inspectors start at \$51,000 and make \$95,000+ on the high end. They use knowledge of welding processes and testing methods to certify that welds are safe. The role of the Welding Inspector is critical to the safety and structural soundness of the vast number of buildings, vehicles, machinery, and consumer products that require strong, secure welds (Welding Inspector). Welding inspectors are typically former welders, they are also required to have extensive training and certifications. Some prevalent ones are, AWS certified welding inspector, AWS certified associate welding inspector, welding work experience, nondestructive testing and examination, some also serve an apprenticeship. The responsibilities of a welding inspector are to review and approve welding procedures, verify welder and welding procedure qualifications, and to verify safety compliance. As a welding inspector, there are lots of different opportunities to travel for work or to work locally.

I interviewed some different career welders and this was the advice that they were able to give:

- “Absorb, take in as much information as you can everywhere that you go.”
- “There’s a lot of money to be made on the road, but you will also put in a lot of time, and potentially be away from home or family for months at a time depending on the business.”
- “Apply yourself, don't just weld or slam things together. Understand what you are building or welding together. Learn what it is, how it works, what its functions are, and how to build it right.”

All things considered, I want my future career to involve welding. I am currently enrolled in YCST where I will be a certified welder at the end of the school year. After researching these careers the next step for me to take would be an apprenticeship or an internship with a skilled professional. This is something that I will be able to do during the senior year of high school. Then when I graduate I will be able to make a decision and begin a career straight out of school. If there is other schooling or certifications required for the job most times the company will send you for them.