

Contents

<i>About the Authors</i>	<i>ix</i>	
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xi</i>	
PART I	Who Are You?	
Chapter 1	How Do You Get Started?	3
	How do you have the crucial conversations? How do the choices of career and college fit together? How do the courses you take in high school affect the options you have in life?	
Chapter 2	What Are Your Interests and Strengths?	13
	Who are you? What do you like to do? What do you care about? What do you do well? How do others see your strengths?	
Chapter 3	What Does Work Mean to You?	25
	How do you balance money and meaning? What kind of work would you find fulfilling? What kind of life do you envision for yourself?	

PART II Where Are You Heading?

- Chapter 4** Are You Ready for a Career in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math? 37
- Are you taking the right courses? Are you realistic about the requirements? Are you open to different career pathways (engineering, medicine, agriculture, business, information technology)? What special challenges and opportunities may be faced by women and minorities in STEM careers?
- Chapter 5** Can You Have a Good Career with a Degree in the Liberal Arts? 49
- Liberal arts can help to develop many critical career skills and can be a springboard for many different careers. What are the challenges and opportunities of finding a place to start your career with a liberal arts degree?
- Chapter 6** Can You Have a Career Helping Others without Sacrificing Your Own Needs? 61
- What are the rewards and realities of human services careers (medicine, social work, psychology, teaching)?
- Chapter 7** Do You Want to *Work* in Business or *Be* in Business? 73
- What are the primary business pathways (e.g., management, finance, information technology, hospitality)? How does entrepreneurship work and feel in practice? Do you need a college education to pursue a career in business?
- Chapter 8** Can You Make a Living as an Artist or Musician? 85
- The odds of success in art, music, and other creative pursuits can be daunting, but how can you reframe assumptions about these careers to build a practical path?

Chapter 9	Should You Consider a Career in Law or Criminal Justice? There are many different paths to a successful career in law and criminal justice. What are some of the options?	97
PART III How Will You Get to Where You Want to Go?		
Chapter 10	How Can You Try On Your Career Interests? Do you know why it's good to "try before you buy" when it comes to careers? How can you conduct career "experiments"?	113
Chapter 11	Is College Right for You? What are the types of colleges, and where do you fit? How can you overcome your fears? Do you want to go straight to work? How can you hold on to your long-term goals if you need to go straight to work? Is vocational education worth it? What about military careers?	127
Chapter 12	Can You Afford College? Do you know the difference between the list price and the real price of college? How do you decide if a college is worth the cost? Will getting a degree pay off in the long run?	141
Chapter 13	Does It Matter Where You Go to College? How do you find the best fit for you? How do you build a smart list of colleges for applications? How do you make the most of college no matter where you go?	153
Chapter 14	Is Community College a Better Place to Start? What is a 2+2 program, and what are the advantages? What are the upsides and downsides of starting in community college?	167

Chapter 15	Closing Thoughts	179
	<i>Additional Resources</i>	181
	<i>Notes</i>	185
	<i>Index</i>	189