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Independent Study and Mentorship 3B
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**Psychological Research Overview**

**Date:** November 1, 2017

**Subject:** Psychological Research Career Outlook

**Works Cited:**

“Career: Research Psychologists.” *The College Board*,
bigfuture.collegeboard.org/careers/social-science-research-psychologists.

“Careers in Research Psychology.” *Psychology.camden.rutgers.edu/*,
psychology.camden.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/preparation/careers-in-research-psychology/

**Assessment:**

My original topic of study for ISM this year was psychiatry. However, after I researched that topic a little more, I realized that I would be happier in a job that did not require me to work directly with patients. I decided to pursue research psychology so that I can continue to work in the field of psychology. Before researching this career more in-depth, I was unsure of the exact job responsibilities of a research psychologist.
The first article, “Career: Research Psychologists”, gives a brief overview of the career field. The article was able to give me information regarding how I can start preparing for this career as a high school student, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that I am on the right track by taking psychology, anatomy, and advanced math courses. The article also discussed the typical responsibilities of a research psychologist. Some of these responsibilities included conducting experiments, questionnaires, and psychological tests. All of those sound appealing and exciting to me. I am fascinated by the results of personality tests and surveys. According to the article, the job market for psychology, including the research branches, is expected to grow by 2020. This is good news because, should this growth continue, it will be easier for me to obtain a career in this field after I earn my doctorate degree. However, I am slightly concerned that the market is expected to grow through 2020 because I will still be in school.

The next article I read was titled “Careers in Research Psychology”. This article discussed the different branches of psychological research and the classes that should be taken in college in order to pursue those fields. While reading, I was surprised to learn about how many different branches of research there are. Prior to my research, I thought that there was only one general field of research. To me, neuroscience and comparative psychology sounds the most interesting. Neuroscience and cognition commonly involves the study of perception, learning, cognition, emotion, memory, and motivation. When I took my psychology class last year, I was fascinated by memory, emotion, and cognition, so this branch seems to be the most ideal. In order to be successful in this career, I would most likely need to take classes such as behavioral pharmacology, perception, and physiological psychology. All of which sound very interesting to me. This branch of research also draws a lot on biology, another one of my favorite classes and
While interviewing, I will be sure to consult with the professionals about their preferred type of research. According to the article, the typical research psychologist and college professor earns an average salary of $74,240 a year. However, the salaries range from about $35,000 to $119,000. This salary is lower than the salary of a psychiatrist, but I would still be happy with this salary. By obtaining my doctorate, there is a greater chance of earning a larger salary. In order to be successful, I will need to attend graduate school after my undergraduate degree so that I can earn by doctorate. This means I will need an extra four to six years of school after college.

While researching, I was able to learn a lot about my new topic, and I am excited to explore all of the different branches and research possibilities. I am really glad I changed my topic, because I feel more passionate and excited about research psychology than psychiatry. I have so many new questions and I cannot wait to find the answers to them through research and informational interviews.
Annotations:

Article One: http://scrible.com/s/mwFAC

Article Two: http://scrible.com/s/k0FiC