Chapter 18

Activity File 18-1 Deciding What’s Next

**Directions:** Complete the following activity to learn how establishing goals and assessing resources can determine whether additional schooling beyond high school or a career is best for you.

Jerry will graduate from high school at the end of the year and wants a career in food service. He became interested in food service when he began his work-based learning experience as a cook’s helper in a local restaurant. After four months of work, he now helps the chef develop new recipes. He decides to use the decision-making process in order to make such an important decision.

**Step 1 Define the problem or question:**

Jerry must decide what type of career he wants in food service. He thinks he wants to be a chef, but that requires further training, and Jerry wants a break from school. He does not want to spend the rest of his life as a cook’s helper, either. Jerry wishes he could start being a chef right away.

**Step 2 Establish goals:**

Jerry made a list of the following goals.

• become a successful chef in a restaurant in a large city

• work with friendly, creative coworkers and supervisors

• earn a good salary and have job security

• eventually own and manage a fine restaurant

**Step 3 Identify resources:**

Jerry made a list of the following resources.

• knowledge of food service (from classroom work)

• experience as a cook’s helper at a local restaurant

• strong desire to succeed in the food service industry and willingness to work hard

• high school diploma with good grades (nearly completed)

**Step 4 Consider alternatives:**

Jerry researched information on food service careers. He talked with a manager of a fast-food restaurant, two restaurant owners, and a noted chef in a large restaurant. From these conversations, he realized he had three options for pursuing a career as a chef. He could:

• earn a two-year culinary arts degree at a college or culinary institute;

• continue working as a cook’s helper while taking food service courses at a community college; or

• enter a three-year chef apprenticeship program.

**Step 5 Make a decision:**

Jerry chose to enter a three-year apprenticeship because it would provide chef’s training and on-the-job pay. Most of his training would take place in the commercial kitchen with highly qualified food service professionals. Only a few hours each week would involve classroom instruction.

**Step 6 Implement the decision:**

Jerry immediately sent for an application and applied for an apprenticeship. He knew it was important to apply early since entry into the program is very competitive.

**Step 7 Evaluate results:**

Due to Jerry’s good grades, food service experience, and enthusiasm, he was accepted into an apprenticeship program. From day one of the apprenticeship, he knew it was the right decision. Now Jerry looks forward to completing the apprenticeship and working as a professional chef.

1. How did Jerry’s list of career goals help him make a decision?

<<Place Answer Here>>

2. How did Jerry’s list of resources help him move closer to his career goals?

<<Place Answer Here>>

3. How did research play an important role in Jerry’s decision making?

<<Place Answer Here>>

4. If Jerry had not taken the time to plan his career carefully, what might have been the consequence?

<<Place Answer Here>>

5. Ask your instructor where to save your documents. This could be on the school’s network or a flash drive of your own. Name your Word document *FirstnameLastname*\_Activity18-1.docx (e.g., JohnSmith\_Activity18-1.docx).