Purpose
The purpose of this assignment is to encourage students to think about what they will do after they finish their current degree. Many students would like to pursue a career related to psychology, but are not sure what their options are or how to go about pursuing them. Many students would like to go on to graduate school, law school, or medical school, but do not know what is involved in preparing themselves to apply.

If you have questions while you are working on this assignment, feel free to ask Dr. Barchard by email or during office hours.

Instructions:

1. Using the resources provided in this assignment, answer the questions given here. Type your answers to the ALL questions in a Word document. Save your file.
2. Copy and paste your answers into the following survey:  
   https://unlv.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5dUpGx3ZDwTJswd
3. At the end of this survey, there is a password. Write this password down.
4. To receive credit for completing the assignment, you must enter the password into Blackboard. 
   1. Log into Blackboard and select Psy 210. 
   2. On the left-hand side, click Assessments. 
   3. Select After Your Degree. 
   4. Enter the password. 
   5. Click Submit.

Part A: Careers that Interest You
Use the Internet to find careers that interest you. If your major is in psychology, look for careers in psychology. If your major is in another area, look for careers in that area. Spend a couple of hours at this. Picking a career to pursue is an important decision.

You can use any websites or books you want, to learn about careers that might interest you. Here are some websites I found that have information about careers in psychology and other areas:

http://www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/

I highly recommend this site. The “Guidebook for College Students of Color Applying to Graduate School and Professional Programs” has a lot of useful information for all students, regardless of their
ethnicity or background. The “Careers in Psychology” is also excellent.

http://www.uwec.edu/Career/students/majors/wcdwamis/index.htm

Using the information you find, answer the following questions:
1. Briefly describe two or three careers that interest you. For each, give the job title, the kind of work you would do, and the educational requirements.
2. Name a person you can talk to in order to learn more about one of those careers. This person might be someone in you know personally who has that career. They might be a UNLV faculty member who has the required education for that career. They might be someone in the Las Vegas community who has this career. For example, you might decide to talk to the school counselor at Centennial High School, if you were thinking about a career as a school counselor.
3. List the three most helpful websites that you used.

Part B: Getting Ready for Graduate School
Many Psy 210 students want to go to graduate school. Use the Internet to find out what you should be doing to get ready for graduate school, law school, or medical school. You can use any websites or books you want, in order to learn about preparing for graduate school. Here are some websites I found that have information about preparing for graduate school.

Guide to Graduate Admissions
Psychology Graduate School
Pursuing Psychology Graduate School

http://gradschool.about.com/cs/generaladvice/a/guide.htm
http://psychology.about.com/od/psychologygradschool/psychology-grad-school.htm
http://www.uni.edu/walsh/linda2.html

If you are interested in medical school or law school, those websites might have some useful information, but you should also look for websites that were designed specifically for the kind of program that you want to go into.

Using the information you find, answer the following questions:
1. List five things undergraduate students can do right now to help prepare themselves for graduate work in psychology or another area. There are many things students can do to prepare for graduate school. List the FIVE that you personally think are the most important. If you are thinking of going to law school or medical school, instead, list FIVE things that undergraduates can do to prepare themselves for those programs.
2. List the three most helpful websites that you used.
Part C: Psi Chi
If you are interested in a career in psychology or are thinking of going to graduate school in psychology, I recommend that you join the UNLV Psi Chi or Psychology Club. Psi Chi is the National Honor Society for Psychology and has minimum requirements for membership. Psychology Club is open to anyone who would like to join. These two groups meet at the same day and time every second week, throughout the Fall and Spring semesters. The meetings provide information about careers in psychology, different areas of research, and how to get into graduate school.

Go to the website for the National Honor Society for Psychology, Psi Chi, at http://www.psichi.org/ Using the information you find there, answer the following questions:
1. What is Psi Chi?
2. List three advantages to becoming a member of Psi Chi. There are many advantages. List the ones that are the most interesting to you personally.
3. List the requirements for becoming a member of Psi Chi.
4. List the dates and locations of two up-coming conventions that are in moderately convenient locations for you to attend and which sound interesting to you.
5. List the names, award amounts, and deadlines for two different Psi Chi awards for undergraduate students.

Part D: Identifying a Research Mentor
Background
If you are thinking of graduate school, law school, or medical school, I strongly recommend you obtain research experience. Research experience can provide challenging experiences that are not available in the regular classroom, and will give you valuable contacts for learning about careers, how to apply to graduate school, and what to expect. If you are going into a program that emphasizes research (such as a masters or PhD in psychology), it will prepare you for the research you will do in graduate school. Finally, working closely with a faculty member or graduate student will also provide you with someone who can write you a letter of recommendation. When you apply to graduate school, you need three letters of recommendation from faculty members. Ideally, one of these letters will be written by someone who knows you very well, having worked with you extensively one-on-one. Often, the easiest way for a faculty member to get to know you well is for you to work in their research lab for several semesters.

If you want to go to graduate school in an area outside of psychology (e.g., marriage and family therapy, criminal justice), you may want to get research experience in that specific area. Often this is impossible because there are few positions available. In that case, it is valuable for students to get research experience in another area, such as psychology. Furthermore, if you want to go to medical school or law school, you may not need research experience, but you will still need letters of recommendation, and working with a faculty member for several semesters is a good way to get a strong letter of recommendation.

Finally, even if you do not plan to apply to graduate school, you may wish to volunteer as a research assistant. If you get deeply involved in one or more research projects, you can learn a lot of new skills. This experience can help build your resume and can provide you with a letter of recommendation, when you apply for jobs.
**Finding Your Research Mentor**

The first step in getting research experience is to find a faculty mentor who is doing research you are interested in. Go to the UNLV Psychology Department website at [http://www.unlv.edu/psychology](http://www.unlv.edu/psychology). Read about the Clinical and Experimental PhD research programs. Also, read the list of research labs at [http://www.unlv.edu/psychology/labs](http://www.unlv.edu/psychology/labs). Using the information you find there, answer the following questions:

1. In your own words, explain the difference between the Clinical and Experimental Ph.D. programs.
2. List the admission requirements for the Clinical Ph.D. Program and for the Experimental Ph.D. program.
3. List two or three faculty members who do research that sounds interesting to you. If possible, list faculty members you have met and think that you could work with.
4. List two or three research labs that interest you. If possible, list labs that involve the faculty members you listed in the section above or their graduate students.

**OPTIONAL:** If you want, contact the faculty members and graduate students that you are interested in working with, to tell them that you would like to join their research lab. You can use email or phone (or both). If you do not receive a response within 3 days, try again. If you phoned originally, try email; if you emailed originally, try phoning. I recommend that you talk to at least two researchers before deciding which lab you would like to join.