

Inspired by Melinda Long's [How I Became a Pirate](#), these three fifth graders worked on their organizational skills as they created the following essays about jobs' pros and cons.

Remember that a writer thinks about these things when organizing their writing:

- There is a strong introduction to the piece of writing
- The writing comes to a satisfying conclusion
- Transitions are used to move the idea along logically
- Paragraphs are written with purpose
- The conclusion might somehow links back to the introduction

Be prepared to comment on these five things after reading each of the following three essays. The online lesson that inspired this writing can be found [here](#).

Pros and Cons of Being a Vet

by July, fifth grade writer

Being a vet can be very rewarding, and at times get difficult. One rewarding thing about being a vet is animals can be nice and respect you. A difficult thing about being a vet is animals might feel intimidated and bite, scratch, and kick at you.

Some fun things about being a vet are that vets do surgeries on animals, which might not seem fun, but at the end, you are glad because you just saved an animal. When you're a vet, you get to be with animals almost every day. Also when you're a vet, you can get up to 118,000 dollars a year. Once you have saved an animal, the owner is very pleased with your work. If you absolutely love animals, this is a great job for you.

Some bad things about being a vet are that before you become a vet, you have to go through about eight years of college, and that involves a lot of patience. You also deal with dangerous animals that might hurt you. Vets work long hours, which is not very pleasant. You also have to deal with both angry and sad pet owners too.

Now you can see how being a vet is exciting, but sometimes not anything like you expected. Even though being a vet can be hard, at the end of the day, you are delighted that you saved a lot of animals' lives. I would really enjoy being a vet.



The Pros & Cons of Being an Epidemiologist

by Zach, fifth grade writer

Epidemiology is the study of public health, so an epidemiologist would study anything that can make you sick. Epidemiologists study why an epidemic happened and how to stop it. In some cases, this could mean burning down villages.

Being an epidemiologist can be a lot of fun, especially when you get to see the beautiful colors and spectacular shapes of viruses and bacteria every day. You can save many lives and become a famous epidemiologist for curing flesh-eating streptococcus. If you can cure something like flesh eating streptococcus, who knows what you will get. Each time an epidemiologist finds a cure for something, they're never forgotten. Knowing that you saved the lives of many people, you feel awesome!

If you do become an epidemiologist, you don't always get what you want. You could have to do



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something on lead poisoning when you want to do something on a new virus. The schooling is nowhere near fun. Just to become an epidemiologist you have to get through college and then medical school; that's 8 years at least. Now, in these times, it can take up to 6 years to get through college and at least 4 years in medical school. Another con is that if you're not careful with an incurable disease like flesh eating bacteria, you could get the infection yourself and die.

Despite the death factor, being an epidemiologist is a good job. Lots of grateful people will thank you, and knowing that your studies saved people's lives, you will feel very good.

Pros and Cons of Being a Baker

by Cassandra, fifth grade writer

Being a baker can be very frustrating. You go to an amusement park and get in line in front of a customer you had who hated your food. The customer said it was dry, and too salty. You never know when they just might do something horrible when you leave the amusement park.

Baking is not so bad once you get to know the job. Sometimes when there's a party, you can make something incredible. But when you arrive at the party, make sure not to trip on the doorstep and drop your food on the host. Making food in the bakery shop can be hard work, but it's also very fun once you get messy. Sure you'll get a little bit in trouble if the kitchen looks like a tornado passed through, but whatever food you were making, while you were destroying the kitchen, probably tastes delicious. Entering the national baking contest is a big thing for a baker. Your being rushed and having a big competition, but you really get to show people what you're made of. When the bell dings and times out, you know your food is going to knock the judges out of their chairs.

Baking sometimes has a lot of down sides to it. When you're cooking the food you were assigned to, there's a slight possibility that you might burn your food in the oven or add an extra ingredient so you have to start all over again. While making the food for a customer, you may cut yourself with your tools, get angry, and just cut yourself some more. Your hands are now sore and you are left with no choice but to go home. If you are finished making a masterpiece, you are left to see it hauled away in the bakery truck. Your mouth starts to water as it's pulled away, and you just want to chase after it as it's driven away.

Even though there are up sides and down sides of baking, it's still a good job to get. Besides, riding on roller coasters makes me sick to my stomach.

