

Name _____

Music Careers Research Project

Use this page to write the names and/or addresses of the sources where you found the answers to the questions on the following pages.

Sources

Find the average salary of each of the following careers. Then number each career, with 1 being the highest paid and 5 being the lowest paid.

DJ \$_____ Ranking____

Elementary school music teacher \$_____ Ranking____

Songwriter \$_____ Ranking____

Background vocalist \$_____ Ranking____

Film scorer/composer \$_____ Ranking____

Find the average number of years of training required for each of the following careers

____ DJ

____ Elementary school music teacher

____ Songwriter

____ Background vocalist

____ Film scorer/composer

Based on your findings, which career do you think would be the best choice to make a living? Why?

Read the following article. While reading, find or infer from the text the answers to these questions:

1. What is the role of microphones during setup?
2. When should the engineer begin to familiarize him/herself with the sound of the group to be recorded?
3. What kind of musical advice might a recording engineer give to an artist?
4. What personal characteristics would a recording engineer require to be successful?

Job Description of a Recording Engineer (from howstuffworks.com)

The job of a recording engineer is not only to record audio, but to edit and mix it in such a way as to make the audio sound the best it possibly can. During a recording session, he must listen to audio from both a musical and a technical perspective, looking for ways to adjust the equipment, recording levels and even the performance of the artist in such a way that the recorded product sounds perfect

The first job responsibility of the recording engineer is to make sure that all of the studio equipment is working correctly and that it's properly set up for the recording session. The most basic goal of a recording session is to get a clean recording of the audio. If equipment isn't functioning properly -- and that includes everything from microphones to computer software -- then you're going to waste the client's money on lousy recordings or downtime in the studio.

Depending on the size of the studio and needs of the client, setup itself can get pretty elaborate. Often an assistant recording engineer will be hired to handle pre-session tasks like running cable, checking mikes and setting up baseline levels on the control panel and in Pro Tools before the client arrives.

Once the client arrives, it's the responsibility of the recording engineer and his assistants to help the client get all of its equipment set up in the studio and prepared for recording. Most of this setup is devoted to microphones. Drums, for instance, require many individual microphones that need to be placed in specific spots and at specific angles to ensure the best sound quality. Same goes for guitar amplifiers. Then each microphone needs to be assigned a level to ensure a nice balanced sound coming out of the studio monitors.

Throughout this whole setup process -- or preferably weeks before the recording session even begins -- it's the job of the recording engineer to familiarize himself with the musical style of the client and the client's goals for the recording session. The more the engineer understands where the artist comes from and where he's going, the better the engineer can prepare for the technical considerations of the session.

During the recording session, the recording engineer is chiefly responsible for getting clean, balanced recordings of all audio tracks. Beyond that, the recording engineer can be as involved with the creative process as the client wishes. Some recording engineers are like coaches, telling the client what to fix with each take. They give musical advice on doubling up on vocals, adding or subtracting instruments, et cetera.

3. What kind of musical advice might a recording engineer give to an artist?

4. What personal characteristics would a recording engineer require to be successful?

Email your completed project to smhsmusic@hotmail.com

The research project is due by the end of the school day on Thursday, October 2