Project 2: Character Study – Due Tues, Nov 6

In class, we will examine how work in the U.S. has changed over the last century, the forces that shape those changes, and how we track the shifts over time. You will also read character studies based on interviews, including Corey Kilgannon’s “Character Studies” series in the *NYTimes*, “The Jobs Americans Do” feature in *The New York Times Magazine*, and some of the chapters-in-progress from the Obsolete Jobs Project.

You will contact a worker who is local, at least 18 years old, and currently working in the job you will ask them about. In addition, the job must be one that a job that has experienced a lot of change in number of people doing it (growth or decline). You will interview the worker in person, following the guidelines of informed consent and ethical interviewing. You will record the interview on your phone or laptop.

By 11:40am on Tuesday, November 6, you will submit two things via Blackboard:

1. **A character study of the worker (20pts):**

   In 1000-1500 words, write an engaging magazine-style profile that combines your interview material with research about the job and how it has changed over time. You must include at least one reference from a statistical database such as those on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website and at least one reference from a peer-reviewed article identified using the UVM library databases. Use APA style and include a references page (which will not count toward the word count).

2. **A brief reflection paper discussing your interview experience (5pts)**

   In 500-1000 words, reflect on the experience of conducting the interview. The focus of these papers will vary, but you may consider discussing what went well; what you might do differently next time; what was uncomfortable; what was surprising; what impacts privilege, bias, and power had on the interview; and what you learned.

Please note that you should not identify the worker by name anywhere in the materials you turn in. You may use a first initial or assign a pseudonym.

You will not submit your recording of the interview, but keep it, as I may request it later if I have questions.