

Mapping K-W-L: What You Know, Want to Know, and Need to Learn)

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Oftentimes, even if we can imagine career possibilities, there are so many unknowns that it's hard to take steps toward those possibilities. This variation on the K-W-L reading strategy helps to organize what information we've already got on hand and what more we want to know and need to learn in order to turn unknowns into knowns.

Like many career discernment practices, this exercise can be repeated multiple times. I'd suggest printing a new table for each career path and then noticing patterns across the tables you complete.

For example, if you're considering whether to stay or leave an academic position, you might complete one table for "inside higher ed" and another for "outside higher ed." When I completed this exercise, I realized how much I needed to learn about alt-ac, non-ac, and post-ac positions, so I began making research plans to learn more. At its best, this K-W-L exercise can prompt action and reveal next steps.

What You Already <u>K</u> now	What You <u>W</u> ant to Know	What You Need to <u>L</u> earn