Name: Jerrica McDowell Period: 3rd

# Career Outlook

Directions: Using the Bureau of Labor and Statistics online Occupational Outlook Handbook at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, complete the following for your chosen profession.

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| **Profession/Career** | Detectives  |
| **Job descriptions/duties** | * Investigate crimes
* Collect evidence of crimes
* Conduct interviews with suspects and witnesses
* Observe the activities of suspects
* Arrest suspects
* Write detailed reports and fill out forms
* Prepare cases and testify in court
 |
| **Work environment** | Detectives work can be physically demanding, stressful, and dangerous. Detectives regularly work with crime and accident scenes |
| **How to become one** | Education requirements range from a high school diploma to a college degree or higher. Most police and detectives must graduate from their agency’s training academy before getting on-the-job training. Candidates must be U.S. citizens, usually at least 21 years old, and meet rigorous physical and personal qualifications. |
| **Pay** | The median annual wage of detectives was $55,010 in May 2010. $68,820 for detectives and criminal investigators |
| **Job outlook** | Employment of police and detectives is expected to grow by 7 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. Continued demand for public safety will lead to new openings for officers in local departments; however, both state and federal jobs may be more competitive. |
| **Employment change** | 58,700 |
| **Similar/related occupations** | correctional-officers, firefighters, emt, Probation officers, correctional treatment specialists, Security guards, gaming surveillance officers patrol and paramedics |
| **Contacts for more information** | <http://discoverpolicing.org/> |