Your family influences you in many ways. Learn more about different family roles, how families communicate, how family life has changed over time, and the pleasures, problems, and pastimes that are a part of family living.

1. **Find out how technology has changed family life through the years.** Talk to individuals of four different ages about what family life was like when they were children. Talk to both women and men. Ask someone who is in her or his twenties or thirties, forties or fifties, sixties, seventies, or older. How do their descriptions compare with what you know of family life today? Document and share your findings with others.

2. **Take a trip to a computer store.** Gather information about computer software that could be used in your household for task management and for fun. Which software programs are most worthwhile?

3. **Develop a family media and technology center and storage area.** Label videos, tapes, and compact discs. Regularly recycle or share your tapes with others.

4. **Do an online search to find information about family life in two cultures other than your own.** Compare the similarities and differences.

5. **Design a family T-shirt for a family reunion or gathering.** This may be an original design or stencil or silk-screen or some other technique. Or design and print your family’s greeting cards.

6. **Plan a family reunion.** Form a committee of relatives to work with you in planning the event. Decide where and when you will hold it, and how you can involve relatives who live far away. In addition, create a display of old photos to share at the reunion.

**Career Exploration**

1. Identify at least five careers that involve family living. Find resources or books about three of these careers, and answer the following questions:
   - How much and what type of schooling is required?
   - What are the daily job responsibilities?
   - Where would a person in this field work (schools, hospitals, etc.)?

2. There are many different ways that parents today juggle having a career and raising a family. Some do it alone, and some with the support of spouses or other family members. Interview at least three parents in diverse situations and with children of varying ages. Ask them questions about the challenges and rewards of managing a career and family life, such as:
   - Are there different responsibilities for mother or father?
   - If you could do it differently, what would you change?
   - What supports do you rely on?
   - What are creative solutions you have worked out in your family to help with household jobs done?

3. Take on an area at home that you will personally be responsible for, like laundry, food shopping, or menu planning. Come up with timely and creative ways to tackle tedious chores.

4. Invite representatives from agencies that provide services for families to a troop or group meeting. Have them discuss the types of services provided, the costs involved, and the major family issues challenging their agencies. You might also invite parents or guardians to the meeting.

**Service Projects**

1. **Compile a community directory of medical, legal, educational, financial, and recreational services for families.** Make it available to troop or group family members or other community members.

2. **With your family, prepare and deliver a holiday basket for a homebound, elderly, or ill person in your community.**