

# Physician's Assistant

Health care is already America's biggest employer. By the year 2025, even more health care workers will be needed. This is true for two reasons. One reason is that the population is growing. The second reason is that many Americans will be over the age of 55 by then. More people need more care. And older people tend to need extra care as they age. This means one thing: lots of job opportunities in the coming years.

*(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)*



## In the Middle Between Doctor and Nurse

Physician's assistants, or PAs, help take care of sick patients. Some PAs tend to people with colds, flu and other common illnesses. They put casts on broken limbs, stitch up wounds, and order medical tests. Others work with certain types of patients such as those with cancer or heart problems. PAs do many of the same things that doctors do. The biggest difference is training. Doctors often need up to 15 years of special training. PAs must first earn a college degree. They need at least three years of health care experience. Then they get three years of medical training. PAs work together with licensed medical doctors. There are many opportunities for PAs. They fill a huge health care need.

### CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference?

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?

### CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*

Flu season is right around the corner. Getting the flu is no fun at all. It can make people feel miserable for days. The flu can even be deadly.

As a future PA, you want to protect your patients from this very contagious disease. Look online for information about the "2018 flu virus." Also ask health care providers or the school nurse to share what they know about it.

Use the back side of this paper to sketch out a flu warning poster. Be sure to describe the symptoms. Add tips for avoiding the virus. And include ideas for taking care of someone with the flu.

Just be sure to follow your own advice!