

# Physician's Assistant Teacher Tips

It isn't much of a leap to suggest that many of your students will one day be employed in the health care industry. Health care accounts for almost 20 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). For the first time in history, it employs more people than manufacturing and retail. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 37 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.



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## DISCUSS

Ask students to describe the different roles of doctor and nurse. Explain that physician's assistants benefit between the two with more responsibility than a nurse and less than a doctor. Nurse practitioners are similar to physician's assistants. The difference is that nurse practitioners have prior training and experience as nurses.

## READ

Students can read the text about **Benefit** out loud together (as a class or in teams) or on their own.

## CHALLENGE #1: If You Had This Career...

Several questions prompt students to dig into essential information in a first person way that facilitates personal connections. Students can find answers to these questions by:

- Using Google (or another approved Internet search engine) to make specific queries like “what kind of training does a physician's assistant need” or “salary information for physician's assistant.”
- Visiting career information websites like [www.getmyfuture.org](http://www.getmyfuture.org) or [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org). Both of these websites are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- If available, tapping into your school's career development software platform (such as Career Cruising) or your state's career and college information system (such as [www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org)).

## CHALLENGE #2: Find It!

They are asked to seek out information online and through personal encounters with health care professionals (when available). You may want to consider asking the school nurse to visit the class for a brief question and answer session. Students will use their findings to create a **Yield**.

## EXTEND THE DISCUSSION

Use this career option as a way to open up discussion about other types of health care professions that students know about.

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Check out the Bright Futures Press career exploration collection of interactive books for middle grade readers at [www.brightfuturespress.com](http://www.brightfuturespress.com). Find a free classroom activity guides!