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English II

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Here's Mud in Your Eye

Since I was a little girl playing in my sandbox and serving mud pies to my Barbie, I've known that I wanted to be a mud wrestler when I grew up. As soon as I realized that someday I would have to earn my own living, I've been looking forward to going to the mat in the mud. In spite of years of training, low wages, and practically no esteem, mud wrestling is the career for me.

Mud wrestlers do not wrestle mud; rather they wrestle other people in mud. They wrestle in front of paying customers, so this is considered both athletic and entertaining. Mud wrestling is the nitty-gritty sport of champions.

A mud wrestler's working conditions are dirty. Competitions are usually in the evening, often late at night. They are usually held in lower-class bars in front of drunken men and women who are yelling and screaming. Very often, the audience is wanting the athlete to get hurt, or at least get mud in the eye. A busy mud wrestler might work from five to ten hours a week, at roughly ten dollars an hour. As you can see, this is not the way to strike pay dirt. A very gifted wrestler might make as much as one hundred dollars for a competition, but the agent's percentage, the costume fees, doctor bills, and lawyer's fees greatly reduce the profits ([Oklahoma Career Search](#)). Mud wrestling is a dirty job, but someone has to do it.

Mud wrestlers are encouraged to join their national organization -- not a union -- called Down and Dirty, or D.A.D. Memberships in D.A.D. usually cost \$50 per year, and entitle members to the professional journal, The Wipe (Oklahoma Career Choices). This journal with its articles on the latest in techniques and uniforms is well worth the membership fee. Without it, a wrestler can feel less than a professional . . . just a dirty person rolling around in mud for no good reason.

It takes years of training to be a professional mud wrestler. One must plan well in advance of one's career, and take special courses in high school such as P.E., and other courses. Of course, many junior colleges and universities offer further study at local bars on amateur nights. A dedicated wrestler can find all kinds of places and situations in which to practice. The most important quality, though, is not training, but in the physical aptitude of the wrestler. The wrestler must have below-to-average intelligence, a desire to win, and lots of towels.

I have already begun my long trek to becoming a mud wrestler. I have a genuine desire to be of the dirt, in the dirt, and for the dirt. The demands are great, but so are the rewards. Mud wrestling is a noble profession. As a famous mud wrestler put it, "It may be true that my body's in the mud, but my heart's in the clouds" (Boom-Boom).

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