

Sanborn Regional High School

Career Speaker Guidelines

Thank you for your willingness to share your career with our students. You will be speaking with about 10-15 students both male and female. You will have about 40 minutes in total. Typically, speakers use about 20 minutes for presenting and leave about 20 minutes for questions. The following are tips to help you as well as the students have a more successful experience.

In Advance of the Day:

- Decide if you'll need any equipment (white boards, microphone, podium, computer –some of these will depend on the size of the student group, of course) or technology set-up (LCD projector, wireless internet connection). Please let us know if you need something.
- Prepare visual aids! Your audience will be more engaged.
- Prepare handouts or take-aways. Consider passing around example tools of your trade or leaving students with take-home materials that will stimulate conversation with their families.
- Arrive early to test the equipment. Something always needs tweaking. It's a rule.

Things to understand about talking with teens:

Students of any age and gender are as diverse as any group of individuals, yet some traits tend to be common among them, namely...

- Displaying outward confidence while feeling inwardly less secure
- Appreciative of anecdotes and stories that humanize you
 - Where did you grow up?
 - What did you want to be when you were their age?
- Appreciate of anecdotes and stories that personalize the facts
- Easily bored with one-way communication
- Could tune-out completely if presented with too much industry jargon or acronyms
- Questioning and seeking proof; more willing to challenge authoritative statements than you would think
- Anxious about the next phase of their lives

Road map –What To Say

- What do you do? What did you do before this?
- What kinds of things do you do at your job?
- Did you have to go to school after high school?
- What kinds of subjects did you like to study in school?
- What kinds of subjects were important for you to know in order to be able to do your job?

- Do you like your job?
- Did you always know you wanted to do what you do? If not, how'd you start out?
- How did you get to where you are? Was your path typical/not typical?
- What might you do differently if you started over or were "in these kids' shoes?"
- What do you enjoy most/least about your work?
- Do you travel for work? Where have you been that is cool?
- What is a typical work day for you?
- What is the projected job market?
- Describe your work environment.

How to ask questions and get an answer from teens:

- Let's have a show of hands. How many of you think/agree...?
- Can anyone give me an example of...?
- How many of you have/think/agree with...?
- Who knows/has ever experienced/appreciates...?
- Can anyone tell me what (blah blahblah) means?
- What do you think is the most interesting....?
- Under what circumstances do you think (blah blahblah) happens/is necessary?
- Can you think of a reason/possibility when...?
- Does ...(blah blahblah) ... sound familiar to any of you?
- How many of you own a ...?