

Career speaker outline:

Thanks so much for sharing your career information with our middle school students!

The session will last for one hour. The suggested format is as follows. Please feel free to contact Michelle Jacob if you have questions or need assistance with planning.

1. Introduce yourself and talk about your educational background - students are exploring what they might need to do to get into different careers, so everything is relevant! Feel free to talk about what types of classes you took in high school, what extra-curricular activities you participated in, where you went to college (if applicable) and for what, what else you did in college (sports, clubs, government, etc), any advanced degrees or certificates you earned or are working toward, any professional learning or hobby learning that you continue to do.
2. Talk about your current job. Students are exploring everything about different careers, including where the job might be, the environment that it's in (desk, lab, outside, etc), how many people work with you, your general hours, your vacation (if you're comfortable with sharing that), whether you travel and for what, what do you continue to learn about your job and why, what do new employees have to show that they can do, etc.
3. Develop an activity for students to do that shows them a little about your job. For example, a veterinarian might give students a list of conditions and then describe an animal's symptoms and have students decide what they think is causing the symptoms. A graphic designer might walk students through designing a logo and then ask students to design one of their own. A financial planner might give students a briefing about different stocks or bonds and have them choose how to invest a client's money. Students can work individually, in pairs, or in small groups, and they have access to laptops that they can use if needed.
4. Debrief and discuss the activity and add a twist (maybe the animal is really a chimp, maybe the logo now needs to use a different format or color palette, maybe the client decided that she wants to invest only half of the money).
5. Debrief the twist and/or answer any other questions that students have.

Thanks again for your time, effort, and for sharing your knowledge! We look forward to welcoming you!