

# Career Speaker Questionnaire



The following questions should guide you in preparing your remarks to the students. Feel free to add any information that you think will help the students as they explore different career opportunities and how they can impact their future. *Please remember to take questions as they come. You are welcome to bring business cards, handouts, and brochures for the class.*

Name? Career? Job title?

Name of Company/Organization? Industry?

How did you decide this was the job you wanted?

What skills and/or educational background does your job require?

Where did you go to college? How long were you in college?  
What degree or certificates did you obtain?

Did you live in dorms or off-campus? What was it like? What are dorms?

What were your biggest challenges in college? In high school?  
How did you overcome those challenges, or did they guide your pathway?

Did you receive financial aid? Did you work during college? Did you do work-study?  
What is work-study?

What are some of your best college memories? Did you join clubs or participate in different activities?

What do you like about your job? What do you dislike about your job?

What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you on the job?

What are the hours that you work? How do you dress for your job?

Is it important for you to be able to work with other people?

Are you working in your degree field? Have other jobs or activities in school/college taught you skills that help you in your job today?

What is the typical starting salary and/or average salary for someone working in your field?

What is a typical day at work like for you? What kinds of activities do you do?

What advice would you give to a fifth/sixth-grade student who might be interested in pursuing this career path?

# Talking To (Not At) Fifth/Sixth-Graders — Suggestions for Presenters

## General Guidelines

Before you talk to fifth or sixth-graders, consider not only the message you want to get across to them but also how you can get that message across most effectively.

### Remember:

- These students are no more interested in being lectured to than you were at that age.
- You are the role model and authority figure and it is important to represent that in an engaging, personable yet professional manner.
- Take questions as they come, allowing student curiosity about your college & career experience to guide you.

### As a first step, try to remember what it was like being in the sixth grade:

- What were you most interested in?
- Where were your priorities?
- Who were your closest friends?
- Who influenced you the most?
- Who did you go to for advice?
- What did you think about school?
- What were your favorite subjects?
- Did you know what high school would be like?
- Did you try your hardest or take the easiest courses you could?
- Were you thinking about college?
- Did you have any idea what career you would choose?

### In addition, please bear in mind the following:

- Don't use professional jargon with the students.
- Feel free to discuss your personal experiences including academic and career choices.
- Be honest in describing your career.
- Give factual information about the positive and negative aspects of your career.
- Feel free to bring any equipment or information pertaining to your job.
- Discuss your work experiences.
- Include information that helps students see the importance of a college education. For example, a college degree was once optional, but is now a minimum requirement for employment.
- Discuss entry-level jobs or anything else in your life that helped you make your career decisions.
- Describe some other careers that someone with your interests and skills might pursue.
- Stress job satisfaction as an important consideration in your choice of career.
- Don't overload your talk with detailed facts and figures.
- Don't oversell your career.
- Don't recruit.