

# Tips for Guest Speakers

Thank you for guest speaking at an Oakland public school!

Hearing from caring adults is a fantastic opportunity for students to become inspired for their own futures, build their personal networks, and develop their professional skill-set. It can be challenging for students to connect their passions to a career

goal - particularly because current workforce needs are rapidly changing. By sharing your story and career path with students, you will help them to navigate their career paths and work cultures.



## **HOW TO BEGIN:**

- Introduce yourself, your career, your employer, your position, and why you are here today.
- Students may feel shy or be skeptical of a visitor at first. Help them feel comfortable with an Ice Breaker. (Ex: *Share a favorite XYZ (food, place), share a goal, share a dream.*)
- Always have a welcoming, flexible attitude, and don't be afraid to make mistakes. Your demeanor will go a long way in helping students to get a lot out of your presentation.

## **CONTENT IDEAS:**

1. What are the things that you learned in your K - 12 education that are most useful to you now?
2. What kind of career did you have when you were young and how differently did things turn out for you? What were your passions when you were young, and did they translate into a past or current job in any surprising way?
3. If you have higher education, what was your experience like? What was difficult to get used to? What did you find the most surprising?
4. How did you afford school? **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please only share stories about saving and paying for yourself, winning scholarships, or taking out loans.
5. What was your first job like? How many different types of jobs have you had?
6. What is it like to engage with a boss or manager?
7. Tips for being a coworker? What is your favorite part about being on a team?
8. What is your favorite & least favorite thing about your current job?
9. How do you make goals for yourself, and what helps you make progress to achieve them?

## **CLOSING:**

- Be sure to leave plenty of time for questions. It's great to invite students to ask clarifying questions as you're presentation so they can check for understanding and stay engaged.
- Thank the students and teacher for hosting you and let them know how they can reach you if they have any follow up questions.