

Student Guest Speaker Checklist

When guest speakers visit the classroom, you get a chance to learn about their careers and workplaces, which is a great way to figure out how interested you are in what they do.

You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, practice professional behavior and become more comfortable communicating with professionals.

Before the Guest Speaker arrives ...

- ✓ Do some research on the company that the guest speaker works for or represents. Check out their website and learn as much as you can about the company, its history, what they do and how it impacts your community.
- ✓ Come up with some questions about the company or organization, the industry, career opportunities, and what kind of education and training is needed.
- ✓ Practice "active listening" and how you will make sure that you're getting everything out of the session that you can.

During the presentation ...

- ✓ Be respectful. Make sure your phone is off, don't wear headphones, and don't interrupt.
- ✓ When it's time, ask one of your prepared questions or any others that occur to you. Pay attention to what you hear. Can you see yourself working at the speaker's company?
- ✓ Try to make connections between what you're hearing about and what you're learning in class.
- ✓ If possible, at the end of the presentation, ask for a business card or LinkedIn connection so you can follow up later. This may come in handy, even with employers who don't excite you now.

After the presentation ...

- ✓ Reflect on the day. Talk to your classmates and faculty members about the presentation and whether you're interested in pursuing a career in that industry.
- ✓ Participate in classroom activities that help you think about the value of the presentation.
- ✓ Think about next steps in moving your career plans forward.
- ✓ Send a follow-up email thanking the employer for his or her time. If you're interested in working there or learning more, say so and ask for next steps.
- ✓ Fill out any evaluation forms. Be honest. That will help make future guest speaker presentations more meaningful experiences.
- ✓ Share your experience with your peers on social media. Perhaps a blog post about the event?

Get Ready for the Speaker

Have you ...

- ✓ Researched the guest speaker's company?
- ✓ Crafted your questions?
- ✓ Considered the best way to make a good impression on the guest speaker when you connect after the presentation?
- ✓ Thought about how you'll share your experience on social media?