

JA Career Speakers Series | Program Brief

In *JA Career Speakers Series*, a volunteer guest speaker visits the classroom and shares information about his or her career, work, and education experience. The speaker may bring props, samples of his or her work, or other visuals to help engage students. Activities and implementation design will vary based on grade level.

Program Highlights

- Structured educator and volunteer guides and student handouts available for download
- Includes an optional pre-speaker session (teacher-led) and an optional post-speaker session (teacher-led)
- Four versions tailored toward grades K–2, grades 3–5, grades 6–8, and grades 9–12

This program is part of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway and can be placed in grades K–12, in-school or after-school/out-of-school. The program may receive 1 to 3 Instructional Contact Hours (ICH) per volunteer guest speaker.

Objectives

Student objectives will vary based on grade level. Students will:

- Identify skills and interests.
- Recognize career clusters.
- Practice active listening skills.

Outline

The *JA Career Speakers Series* activities will vary based on grade level.

Below is a sample outline for middle school.

Before the Speaker Event (teacher-led, optional session)

- Teacher prepares students for guest speaker and reviews materials.
- Students research jobs and background related to guest speaker's profession.
- Optional supplements may also be completed.

During the Speaker Event (volunteer-led, required session)

- Volunteer speaker shares his or her job experiences and stories to offer insight and guidance for career education.
- Teacher remains in the classroom during the entire visit to maintain classroom discipline and help foster student engagement.
- Students engage with the volunteer and take notes in their Student Guides.

After the Event (teacher-led, optional session)

- Students report one or two of the most significant things they each learned from the preparation and speaker event.
- Students write a thank you note to the speaker. They should use proper business letter format and include at least three examples of what they learned about the speaker's company, his or her job, and the skill and preparation necessary for that job.
- Students are assigned to pairs and each pair chooses a team name. Using a template in the Student Guide, the pairs create a Career Cluster Scavenger Hunt. Each pair completes the answer key and citations for each of their questions.
- Optional supplements may also be completed.

