

Talking to Teenagers - A guide for presenters

General Guidance

Logistics:

- Foothills Address and phone number: **4300 E Sunrise Dr., 85718; (520) 209-8300**
- **Plan to arrive by 9:30am.** You will be on the road to leave by 10:45am.
- Parking: Please pull into the main parking lot and Security will direct you where to park.
- When you get here, please go to the lobby at the front of the school and mention you are a Falcon Connection Day Speaker. You will then be directed to the auditorium lobby where a staff member will check you in. A student will meet you and guide you to your presenting location.
- Options to connect to a projector include: HDMI, VGA, and USB plugged into teacher devices.
- Guest-Wifi Password can be provided in the Auditorium Lobby if needed.

Some tips, in general, for your young audience:

- Students love to **laugh** as much as adults do. Don't be afraid to insert some appropriate humor into your presentation.
- Getting to know them - Students will feel more connected to you and be more willing to **listen** to you, **answer** your questions, and **ask** you questions if they feel like you have taken an effort to get to know them.
 - One way to do that is to ask for a show of hands for those who meet certain criteria. (Some suggestions: "**Raise your hand if** you've ever had to make a split-second decision." "Raise your hand if you like to use creativity to solve problems," etc.)
- It is easy, but **not effective**, to simply put up some slides and then **read off** them. If you can **avoid** doing this, you should.

Presenting - Aim for 30 minutes of presenting, and then you can open it up for Q and A! Presentation time will be from 10:07-10:40.

The following are some questions to consider that are preliminary questions our students may have had in mind when they signed up for your presentation.

- What drew you to your career?
- What steps did you have to take to get involved? (This includes information like the path you took to get to where you are, what college classes and extracurriculars you took, etc.)
- What can a high school student do now that will help them have a career like yours in the future?
- What can a person starting in your business expect to have to do? And how much could someone just starting in your business expect to make?
- What is an average day like for you?
- What is the best/coolest/most fun/most interesting/most rewarding thing about your career? What do you like about it?
 - For this part of your presentation, you can just touch on the above bullet point -- you may want to go more in-depth about it later.
- Are you an Alumnus of CFHS?
 - If so, you may want to speak briefly about your time here, and how it led you to your career. This will help the students feel connected to you, and your presentation. If you are not an alumnus, don't worry -- there are other ways to connect with students!

Suggestions for Interactive Presentations

It is not always possible to give students a hands-on experience for every career, but, do you have something you can show them? Some suggestions (include but are not limited to):

- Scenarios: Can you ask or guide the students through something that you deal with regularly? This could be in conjunction with images on a slideshow, but does not have to be.
- Share a story - do you have a very interesting story from your career? Don't be afraid to share this with the students -- this is why they are here!
- Pictures in a slideshow that you can describe. To make it interactive, you could ask the students questions about what they notice, or invite them to observe and then tell you/ask you about it.
- Something they can touch/hold/pass around - a small object related to your field, something that sparks questions, etc.
- Ask students to share - If you determine that they have relevant experiences to your area of expertise, you can ask volunteers to share these experiences, and then elaborate on how they relate to your field.
- Perform a demonstration.
 - This won't work for every career, but can it work for yours?
 - Can it incorporate volunteers from the audience? (If not, that's okay -- you should consider doing it anyway!)
- There are many more ways to make your presentation interactive. If you're not sure, email your CFHS contact!