



# **Exploration of Science-Related Careers**

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# Exploration of Science-Related Careers

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this activity is for students to explore various scientific careers. This activity is recommended for grades 6-8.

## **Objective:**

In an effort to expose students to as many opportunities/occupations related to the various sciences as possible, each student will be responsible for having a guest speaker visit the classroom and share their experiences with the students.

**Materials:** none required

## **Procedure:**

The professional to be invited must work (or have worked) in a field which is connected to one of the branches of science. For this assignment only, students are asked to use a professional other than their parent(s). (They may, however, “loan” their parent to a friend.) This is due to the requirement of a Preliminary Search Letter, as well as a Contact Letter that each student should write. Students will be encouraged to use their parents as a resource.

## **Timeline:**

- I. Draw names for month assignments.
- II. Formulate a list of possible guest speakers—narrow list to first and second choice.
- III. Turn in Preliminary “Getting Started” Search Letter to the teacher approximately three weeks before you plan to have guest speaker visit class. (This date will vary).
- IV. Depending on the relationship of the invited person, you may want to contact them by phone or in person concerning the assignment before going on to the next step.
- V. Have Contact Letter approved by the teacher before mailing it. This should be done approximately 1 ½ - 2 weeks before you plan to have the guest speaker visit the class. (This will vary).
- VI. Mail Contact Letter following teacher approval.
- VII. Several days after mailing contact letter, phone the guest speaker to follow-up. At this time request a Letter of Confirmation (or firm up details by phone if the student knows the person and can contact him/her personally). The letter is the safest way. Notify the teacher of the date.
- VIII. Phone the guest speaker 1-2 days before he/she is to visit the class. Go over final details (date, time, location, etc.). Make sure they have your phone number and the school’s phone number in case an emergency arises.
- IX. Greet your guest on the scheduled day and host him/her properly.

- X. Send “thank-you” to your guest.

**Assessments:**

1. Preliminary Search Letter—This should be a one-page informal paper. It should include the names and occupations of your first and second choices. It should also include an explanation of why you are interested in these people and your specific timeline for contacting them. (25 points)
2. Contact Letter—This should be a professionally typed letter to your potential guest speaker. It should include the following:
  - Introduction of yourself
  - Explanation of assignment
  - Reason for choosing this person
  - Specifics of the visit (length of talk, possible dates, what you would like him/her to discuss. etc.)
  - Your name, address, and telephone number
  - Any additional information (map to school, etc.)(75 points)
3. Professionalism—On the day you are to serve as a host for your guest, you will conduct yourself in a professional manner. This includes your dress, your attitude, your introduction, and closing. You will also serve as an assistant to the speaker, providing help when necessary. (50 points)

**Extensions:**

1. Students could reflect on the speaker’s visit in a daily journal or learning log.
2. Cooperatively students could develop a skit that may show a typical workday in the life of one of the guest speakers.
3. Independently students could research topics discussed in greater detail.