

LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA It's My Future[®] 2.0

■ Work and Career Readiness

JA It's My Future offers middle school students practical information to help prepare them for the working world. The learning experience consists of six 45-minute sessions led by a volunteer. Civic connections are woven throughout each of the six sessions.

Following participation in the learning experience, students will be able to:

- Assess their own strengths and interests.
- Develop the job-hunting skills needed to earn a job.
- Research potential careers.
- Create a basic resume.
- Recognize appropriate behavior for an interview.
- Identify soft skills they possess and those they want to improve.

Join Junior Achievement's national network of volunteers and help students in your community connect the dots between what they learn in school and the "business of life"—work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session One: My Purpose

Students are introduced to the world of work and consider their potential purpose within it. Students identify their strengths, explore civic virtues, and examine how these intersect to benefit their community.

JA'S TURNKEY VOLUNTEER SOLUTION:

Personalized Placement

JA works with you to ensure you teach at the location and grade level of your choice.

Comprehensive Training

JA staff provides training so you are comfortable visiting the classroom. Training also will be available in the JA Learning Platform so you are familiar with the learning experience. Training topics include working with students and the classroom teacher, and understanding and facilitating the JA learning experience.

Flexible Time through Blended Learning

The time commitment is flexible to maximize the impact you make. Middle school classes include six 45-minute sessions.

JA provides you with online access to the volunteer, teacher, and student materials you'll need to fit your schedule.

JA Staff Follow-Up and Support

JA staff is available to answer your questions or make suggestions about your volunteer assignment.

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Session Two: Career Paths and Clusters

Students are introduced to the 16 career clusters and the pathways through them. They take a career interest survey and learn about potential jobs within their preferred clusters. They share job information with other members of the class and discuss the importance of all jobs within a community.

Session Three: Bright Outlook Careers

Students learn about the importance of being aware of which fields are growing and which are declining when making decisions about their own careers. They play a game that introduces information about high-growth fields.

Session Four: Career Mapping

Students see how early experiences can build transferable skills that contribute to future job success. They look at the lives of celebrities, focusing on the life experiences that led to their success. They learn about career maps by examining a sample and then create their own.

Session Five: On the Hunt

Students are introduced to the basics of looking, applying, and interviewing for a job. They play a game in which they must identify two truths and a myth about the job search process. They learn the fundamentals of creating a resume.

Session Six: Soft Skills

Students learn why soft skills are essential for getting and keeping a job. Students complete a soft skills self-evaluation to determine which skills they already have and which they can work toward. They role-play a community meeting to practice soft skills, deliberation, and civic virtues.

Visit <https://connect.ja.org/>, JA Connect Resource Guide <https://data.ja.org/s/eBUAAA>, and <https://career.ja.org/> for additional resources.

