

Bridges Speakers in the Classroom

Tips & sample classroom agenda for speakers



“I’m here on behalf of the **Bridges Workplace Connection** –

a program that partners with local Chambers. According to current statistics – out of 100 students, over 50 will start an education after high school but only 25 of you will successfully complete that education. The other 50 students won’t enroll in education after high school. This means that 75 out of 100 students will likely not be prepared for jobs that will pay a wage to support themselves or a family.

The goal of the Workplace Connection is to provide you with information and experiences so you are better prepared to choose a career path, develop skills for the workplace, and make informed decisions about your education after high school. As a business person, I need you as my future employees. I want to give you information you need today - so you can be successful in the future.”

1. **A Little About Me...** focus on elements that will directly impact the kids – people who helped you make college and career decisions, the work you do, your company, the jobs your company provides, choices you made along the way to get you to where you are today.
 - a. Some personal
 - b. My school experience and how that relates to your current job

2. **Ask students to introduce themselves – distribute snack at this point if provided ☺**
 - a. Their name and their year in school
 - b. Depending on the topic – ask for their particular interest or connection to the topic or the career that you are talking about - if the topic is stress in the workplace, ask how they deal with stress for example. If the topic is a specific career area, ask what careers they are considering

3. **Share more information about your job and work or presenting information about topic requested – this outline focuses on career information because topics will be customized:**
 - a. Deciding what to be and do is a difficult part of growing up. Describe your educational and career path, choices you’ve made, opportunities you’ve had, and lessons learned – students love to hear stories – share the good, the bad, and the ugly.
 - b. “I heard some of you say you were interested in certain careers – what has helped you choose?”
 - c. Emphasize the need for a High School diploma and appropriate training or a college degree, as well as the process of continuing learning. The majority of jobs do not require a four year degree – but most require some form of post high school training.
 - d. Students also like to hear about salary ranges, especially as \$/hour or average annual salary.
 - e. Describe the skills needed for your career – Be sure to include the social skills – explain how they’re used and why they’re necessary. Social skills can include teamwork, work ethic, self motivation, creativity, responsibility, safety, leadership, innovation, honesty, showing up on time ready to work.

Bridges Speakers Tips, cont.

4. **How do you compare to your competition?** Many students don't realize they'll not only compete for jobs with their classmates, community, etc. — but also with students around the world.
 - a. “What qualities or skills do you have that set you apart from the rest of the workforce or students?” – continually challenge yourself to do better – Share any volunteer work that you do and why.

5. **Everything you need to succeed is here in school** – stress the items that are most important in your business and use examples:
 - a. Earn ALL of your credits – challenge yourself to succeed in your classes
 - b. Take a minimum of 3-4 years of math and science
 - c. Keep good attendance and be on time
 - d. Learn word processing (50 words/minute), spreadsheets, email, research, filing, presentations
 - e. Take advantage of college courses offered in your school
 - f. Meet deadlines – don't turn in assignments late

6. You are our future!