

Event Packet: Career Exploration

In this space, you will work together to strengthen your pair relationship and to complete the important tasks of the 12th grade.

AGENDA	
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Welcome and Intro (5 min)	The facilitator welcomes pairs and reviews the event agenda.
Chat & Chew: Setting Up Speed Networking (20 min)	Pairs will eat dinner and practice speed networking.
Speed Networking (30 min)	Pairs will engage in speed networking with other members of the cohort.
Career Fit Factors (30 min)	Pairs will review fit factors related to career options.
Close Out (5 Min)	Important announcements and event dates will be shared out.
Mentor Huddle (20 min)	After mentees leave, mentors will reconnect as a community and discuss senior year.

Chat & Chew

Directions: Mentees, you will be speed networking with other mentors. As you eat, practice with your own mentor using the guide below! Remember, practice makes perfect!

What is Speed Networking?

Speed networking is a fast-paced networking event. You are allowed a short amount of time to meet a number of professionals, one at a time. During this meeting, you can ask questions about the individual's work experience and employment sector. Think of it as a quick interview that is focused on expanding your professional knowledge and opportunities.

How to Speed Network:

- Start with a 30-second introduction that includes your name, school/employment status, and a professional goal you have set for this networking event (example: learning about different work environments).
- Ask the other participant to introduce themselves.
(ex: What is your name? What do you do for work?)
- Ask follow up questions as the other participant shares about themselves. Try to relate these questions to the professional goal you are attempting to accomplish.
(ex: What made you choose this career? What does your typical day look like?)
- When it's time to move on, thank the participant for their time.

Questions You Can Ask:

- What is your name?
- What is your occupation?
- How did you enter the field?
- What does your typical work day look like?
- What responsibilities do you have at work?
- What part of your job do you appreciate the most?
- What advice would you give someone that wants to enter the same field?

Take time now to set a professional goal for this speed networking event and practice introducing yourself with your mentor!

Speed Networking Activity

Directions: Mentees, you will be completing 4 rounds of speed networking. When your facilitator says so, you will find a mentor in the room and engage in the speed networking process. When your facilitator says “rotate,” you will move on to a new mentor.

Debrief with your own mentor:

- 1) How did speed networking feel? What went well and what was challenging?
- 2) What did you learn while speed networking?
- 3) How comfortable would you feel trying speed networking again?

Career Fit Factors

Just as there are fit factors to keep in mind when deciding on a post-secondary pathway of choice, there are also fit factors to think over as you try to find a career to pursue.

Go through the fit factors below and answer the questions with your mentor. If you don't have a career in mind, focus on the more general questions. You can backwards plan afterwards to find careers that meet your fit factors.

Credentials	What credentials are you hoping to obtain? What careers could these credentials lead to?
Location	Where would you like to live? Can careers in your field of choice be found at this location?
Salary Range	What is your desired salary range? Is this realistic for an entry-level job in your career field?
Work Hours	What would you like your work schedule to look like (hours, times of day, number of shifts per week)?
Work Environment	Would you like to work outside or in an office? Would you like to work with your hands? Do you prefer to work alone or with others? Do you prefer hectic environments or calmer environments?
Work Outcomes	What would you like to accomplish through your labor (ex: help others, be creative, be intellectually challenged, etc.)?