



JA Inspire

Workforce Development | Financial Literacy | Entrepreneurship

Teacher Guide





TEACHER GUIDE

VIDEO SESSIONS

Thank you for participating in *JA Inspire Virtual* and helping Junior Achievement empower young people to own their economic success. Junior Achievement recognizes the growing need to spark an interest in careers and the path to career success even before students enter high school. *JA Inspire Virtual*, a community effort of JA, local businesses, and educators, helps shape students' positive attitudes about their academic or professional futures, and increases their understanding of real-world workforce readiness skills.

PURPOSE

Students who have an idea of what they want to do after high school, based on their self-awareness and exposure to business opportunities, are much more likely to take relevant courses, stay in school, and graduate.

At the conclusion of *JA Inspire Virtual*, students should be excited about their future. They will have a better understanding of the courses they need to take in high school, a plan for post-secondary education, and a clear pathway to a career.

OBJECTIVES

STUDENTS WILL:

- Gain insight into career clusters that interest them.
- Make connections with adults who have jobs in careers that interest them.
- See the connection between high school programming choices and careers.
- Collect information about the education required to be successful in a job.
- Practice soft skills.

DESCRIPTION

Students will begin their exploration with mostly abstract notions and will end up focused and activated, with real insights on what industries interest them, what specific jobs are like, and what education is required to do them successfully. Not all students receive career mentorship at home, and *JA Inspire Virtual* will help students begin focusing on their future career options. For businesses, this is a chance to build your workforce and start showcasing the careers that will be needed for your business in the future!



The *JA Inspire Virtual* curriculum is supported by six professional videos, developed by JA of Kentuckiana and located at www.JAInspireVirtual.org.

1. Why Is Career Planning Important?
2. Developing a Career Plan
3. Interacting to Learn
4. Asking the Right Questions
5. What to Expect at *JA Inspire Virtual*
6. Reflection and Next Steps

The first five videos prepare students to take full advantage of the event—we expect that students will arrive at the event with an idea of the careers they want to explore, and the skills they need to get information about them. The sixth video is for reflection following the event. Here’s how to use the videos.

- Show each video and then lead a group discussion with the students to reinforce the major points. One video may be shown per class period or multiple videos may be utilized in a session. A *minimum* of two class periods is needed to effectively prepare students and cover the required content prior to the event.
- Each video has a corresponding page in the student manual for students to complete. We recommend having students complete each page following class discussion.



VIDEO 1

WHY IS CAREER PLANNING IMPORTANT?

Students begin to prepare for the *JA Inspire Virtual* event. The video provides context and motivation, as they learn about the importance of a goal and a plan. They also start to understand the importance of self-awareness.

In addition to discussing the video, you might cover the basics about the event. At *JA Inspire Virtual*, students will:

- See what people do on the job, do real work and, sometimes, use actual work tools.
- Meet volunteers from the businesses who will answer questions about the job and explain what they studied to prepare for work, how they got their first job, and why they like the careers they have chosen.

DISCUSSION

- Share the following scenario. You are walking into school and a teacher stops you to ask, "What courses are you taking?" She then asks, "Why are you taking them?"
- Ask if anyone knows of a job that he or she would like to have in the future. Ask each student who responds to say a little about what that job would be like and why it would be a good choice.
- Ask for a show of hands using the questions from the video. What activities were they drawn to? Why? Why do others seem challenging?



VIDEO 2

DEVELOPING A CAREER PLAN

Students learn more about the importance of a career plan that matches their interests and talents with potential opportunities. The video also helps them understand that each person is different and that understanding personal preferences is critical to success. A plan needs to be flexible and, along the way, there will be setbacks and even failures. Having a goal and connecting with mentors will help.

DISCUSSION

- Ask for a show of hands using the questions in the video. Ask students how many of them:
 - Like to be inside? Outside?
 - Like to work with people? Alone?
 - Like to work with their hands? Prefer to read and learn?
 - Like to compete?
 - See themselves as creative?
 - Prefer math and science to other subjects?



VIDEO 3

INTERACTING TO LEARN

Students may have heard of soft or essential skills, but this video redefines them as critical skills. A student's presence on social media, ability to interact, and physical appearance all affect success.

DISCUSSION

- Using recent articles about social media and personal reputation from the popular press (especially magazines and online sites geared to teens), discuss:
 - Social media posts last a long time and can damage your reputation.
 - Employers are using social media to evaluate candidates before giving them an interview.
 - What is the appropriate use of social media?
- Using examples of well-known people, discuss having a personal brand.



VIDEO 4

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

At the *JA Inspire Virtual* event, students will get to hear from business volunteers about their jobs and have their questions answered. Ideally, students will have had time to research companies before they view this video. If not, students should focus on generic questions.

DISCUSSION

- Ask the following questions:
 - Why is it important to be prepared to answer questions in an interview?
 - Why is it important to be prepared to ask good questions?
 - What do you think makes a question “good?”
 - In the video, one person said that an interviewer is “trying to hire his next boss.” What did he mean?



VIDEO 5

WHAT TO EXPECT AT JA INSPIRE

Students learn about the event (the content and format, logistics, and your expectations) and have a chance to discuss what they want to accomplish.

DISCUSSION

- Discuss the event.
 - What are you most excited about?
 - What are your questions or concerns?
 - What do you hope to get out of it?

- Review event logistics.
 - How to log on

 - Where and when you will be accessing the program



VIDEO 6

REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

Students reflect on what they have learned and identify next steps to further define their academic choices and career path.

Note: Consider ways to ensure that students are able to integrate this knowledge with your curriculum and use their learning beyond the duration of *JA Inspire Virtual* as they prepare for the future.

DISCUSSION

- Congratulate students on their successful participation.
- Ask students about their experience. Utilize the following questions to get the conversation started.
 - Was the event what you expected? Why or why not?
 - What surprised you?
 - What did you like best?
 - What new ideas do you have about your future career?
 - What are some next steps you plan to take?