

Effective Tips for Student Engagement

Thanks for volunteering! The event activities are designed to be easy to follow regardless of your professional or personal background but check out these suggestions to make your time with students engaging and impactful.

Keep it Relatable

- Personal stories help break the ice, share a real-life story that connects with the lesson topic. A relatable story (such as anecdotes about your first job) captures the attention and sets a positive tone for the visit.
- You may be the first person a student has met from your career focus area. We encourage you to share your personal story and moments from your youth that have helped lead you down a specific path... It just may get them thinking about their own!
- Try to ask students' names when they raise their hand and thank them for their comments.

Ask Questions

- Ask open-ended questions like, "Has anyone experienced...." Or "What do you think about..." to draw students in and encourage participation.
- If students are unresponsive
 - Give some wait time before moving on - even 30 seconds or so. It might feel awkward, but don't be afraid of silence! Sometimes it takes a minute for kids to think about an answer.
 - If needed, pivot to more specific questions and ask them to give a thumbs up or thumbs down, show their fingers for a scale of 1-5, "raise your hand if you have ever..." etc.
 - To spark conversation, give students time to "turn and talk" where they discuss the question with a partner and then you can share as a group - at that point you can take volunteers, share some ideas you heard while they were discussing in pairs, or even call directly on a pair that you noticed were having a good discussion.

Keep it Brief

- We recommend that events are no longer than 45 minutes and, if possible, include transitions that allow for two-way engagement to recapture students' attention.

Keep it Energetic and Fun

- By creating a welcoming, interactive environment and showing enthusiasm for the topic, you can inspire and engage the students.
- Move around the room, you don't have to stay at the front the entire time. Considering moving toward the students as they answer questions or have additional volunteers positioned throughout the room to answer questions.

Remember Classroom Guidelines

- Remember that you are a guest in the teacher's classroom – don't forget to say thank you for the opportunity to meet their students and be a part of their education for a day.

- If you want to take pictures, please ask the teacher. You will only be allowed to take pictures of students who have completed a photo release form. It's worth asking if the school district's media release form covers outside organizations!

Ended Your Activity Early?

- Get the students talking by asking any of the suggested questions below:
 - Have you talked about this course with friends or family? What lessons did you share?
 - What were you surprised to learn that might be opposite what you thought previously?
 - When it comes to your future, what excites you and most worries you?

Do you have any feedback?

- If you have any feedback for the EVERFI team, please fill out this [form](#).