

LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA It's My Future[®] 2.0

JA IN A DAY

► Work and Career Readiness

JA It's My Future offers middle school students practical information to help prepare them for the working world. Upon completing the learning experience, students will be able to research potential careers, recognize appropriate behavior for a job interview, and identify soft skills they possess and those they want to improve. Students will assess their own strengths and interests and develop job-hunting skills needed to earn a job. Civic connections are woven throughout the learning experience.

The JA in a Day model, based on core content from *JA It's My Future*, consists of five 45-minute sessions led by a volunteer. At the conclusion of the *JA It's My Future* JA in a Day, students will be able to represent themselves professionally, research potential careers, and map a path to a potential job. They will recognize the importance of soft skills in meeting employer expectations and keeping a job.

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.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

1 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.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Five 45-minute sessions
- Mix of hands-on and digital resources engage student in experiential learning
- Work readiness content tailored specifically for middle school students, with civics connections woven throughout
- Redesigned Guide for Volunteers and Teachers for easy delivery of the JA in a Day model

JA It's My Future

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 Session Five: On the Hunt

Removed for JA in a Day implementation.

6 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/DQkAAA>, and <https://career.ja.org/> for additional resources.

