

LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA It's My Future® 1.0

JA IN A DAY

► Work and Career Readiness

JA It's My Future offers practical information about preparing for the working world while still in middle school. Upon completing the learning experience, students will be able to research potential careers in keeping with the interests and skills they hope to develop, and learn how to plan for and keep a job. Students will develop the personal-branding and job-hunting skills needed to earn a job.

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 learn how to plan for a job by writing a resume and conducting themselves appropriately during an interview. They will recognize the importance of technical and 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

My Brand

Students learn that they have their own personal brand and that the brand they build today will reflect on them in the future. They examine well-known logos to learn how individuals and companies create their brands and build their reputations. They assess their personal characteristics to define their own brands and then develop logos to represent themselves.

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
- Redesigned Guide for Volunteers and Teachers for easy delivery of the JA in a Day model.

JA It's My Future

Career Paths, Clusters, and High-Growth Careers

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. 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 occupations.

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.

On the Hunt

Students are introduced to the basics of looking, applying, and interviewing for a job. They learn the fundamentals of creating a resume and engage in a simulation in which they identify appropriate skills for various jobs and decide on where to highlight those skills on a resume.

Soft Skills

Students learn about the differences between technical and soft skills and why both 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 gaining. Finally, they role-play situations that require strong soft skills.

Visit <https://connect.ja.org/>, JA Connect® Resource Guide <https://data.ja.org/s/eBUAAA>, and <https://career.ja.org/> for additional resources.

The collage displays various JA It's My Future educational materials. On the left is a 'Soft Skills' poster with a lighthouse illustration. In the center is a 'Career Map: Forensic Science Technician' diagram showing a career path from high school to college to work. To the right is a 'Career Matchup Game' interface showing a grid of 16 numbered cards and a score tracker. Below the game is a video frame showing students in a classroom setting using laptops. On the far right is a 'JA in a Day' poster with a paper boat illustration.