



SHARE MY CAREER

Biopharma

EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTORY NOTES

This *Employee-Led Activity: Share My Career Session*, along with the Employee Guide, are designed to help you have a positive and meaningful experience sharing your career expertise with a group of students in your community. This session could take place at a school during a regular class period, an afterschool club, an evening community night, or a career fair event.

Holding a preplanning conversation with the classroom teacher or adult facilitating the group of students is critical to ensure your session is valuable for the students. Be sure to reference the Employee Guide for helpful information to plan your school visit. The end of this document also includes sample questions students may ask of you during your visit.

This *Employee-Led Activity: Share My Career Session* could run as short as 20–30 minutes in length or extend to 45–50 minutes depending on the time frame available to you and your preplanning with the teacher or adult facilitator.

The information below is designed to help guide your discussion with the students. There are two options presented, so you can choose what fits best for you, the students, the setting, and time frame. You do not have to cover every topic noted below but can choose which items make the most sense given your preplanning conversations with the classroom teacher, the age/ grade level of the students, and the amount of time you have for the session.

Students will value an authentic and clearly-worded presentation that engages them and inspires them to ask questions. Think of this document as a guide to help you think about your presentation, but be sure to value the preplanning session and be open to adding other elements to your session as well. Your company may also have brochures, a job-search website, summer internships, and/or other experiences/events that students would find both informative and interesting.

OPTION #1

Welcome and Introductions | 5–10 Minutes

- Introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome and hearty thanks to the students and teacher for inviting you into their classroom and school.
- Tell students they can raise their hand at any time to ask questions.
- Explain to the students what you do and who you work for (company and division in the company). Dress the part if you can. Wear your work clothes so students see how you look on an average day.
- At this stage of your introduction, consider asking: “What do you think I do in my job?” This question may spark comments from students that could reinforce correct information and/or give you a chance to correct misconceptions that students may have.



- Remember to keep the age level of the students in mind and consider if you'll need to define any technical vocabulary to help them better understand your job. Be prepared to define words in simple, relevant, and relatable language.

Career and Job Exploration | 5–10 Minutes

Use this section of your presentation to dive more deeply into your career and specific job. Be prepared to explain any of the following items:

- What your company does.
- Why your company's work is important and relevant.
- How your company contributes to the field of pharmaceuticals.
- What specifically you do in your job and how it contributes to your company's mission.
- What you like best about doing your job. (Describe a typical day, including what your responsibilities are and who you work with.)
- What education and/or skills that may be required for people in your job.
- What skills you apply on the job every day—writing, communication, reading, etc. What STEM skills—math, science, engineering, technology—you use in your job.
- Explain how your career may relate to your hobbies or interests.
- Share how you collaborate and communicate with other employees.
- How you use elements of creative thinking and/or problem-solving skills in your work.

Engaging Students' Content Knowledge about Your Job | 5–10 Minutes

See what students already know or think they know about your industry, career, or specific job. This section should be guided by your expertise and the important knowledge about your career and industry that you can share with students.

Share with students some basic information about the biopharmaceutical industry, such as:

- Pharmaceutical companies contribute to the health and wellbeing of people of all ages.
- The pharmaceutical industry researches, develops, produces, and markets medications and drug treatments. The goal of these medications is to alleviate the patient's symptoms, cure the patient's disease, or prevent disease in the future.
- The main difference between pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals (also called biologics or biological products), is the way by which the drugs are produced:
 - Biopharmaceuticals are produced in living organisms like bacteria, yeast, and cells.
 - Pharmaceuticals are produced through chemical reactions.
- The first biopharmaceutical available for prescription was artificial human insulin in 1982.
- Biopharmaceuticals include a range of products including vaccines, antibodies, cells, gene therapy, and organ/tissue transplants.



- Biopharmaceuticals are given through an injection or intravenous infusion.
- Biopharmaceuticals are at the cutting-edge of medical research and offer the most advanced treatment available.
- Biopharmaceuticals have revolutionized cancer treatment, are used to treat autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis, and help treat people with other rare diseases.

Ask students to answer the following questions. You can do this as a whole group, or students can work in pairs/ small groups and confer with one another before sharing their answers.

- What is medicine used for?
- Who has ever used over-the-counter medicine, which is medicine adults can buy without a doctor's prescription?
- Who has ever taken prescription medicine before, which is medicine that has been prescribed specially for you by a medical professional?
- Pills are one form of medication. What other forms of medication have you seen or heard of?
- Can you think of any type of medicine that is used to prevent disease?
- Can you think of any type of medicine that is used to cure disease?
- Can you think of any type of medicine that is used to alleviate, or ease, symptoms?
- Why is it important to always carefully follow medicine's instructions?

Closure and Summary Notes | 5 Minutes

When you come to the end of your session with the students, thank the students and teacher again for their time and participation. Please be sure to share resources from your company and from the STEM Careers Coalition website (stemcareerscoalition.org) that students or teachers can explore for more information.

Be prepared to share 2–3 succinct closing points that help pull together the experience for the students.

These 2–3 points could be:

- Words of encouragement to get students excited about the biopharmaceutical industry or your career.
- Specific advice to stay engaged in school and/or to seek learning opportunities about diverse topics in order to discover what they may want to consider as a career path.
- Additional resources that students could access from your company, if available, such as a website, internships, or extension experiences to learn more about the pharmaceutical industry.



OPTION #2

This option is designed if you know you only have 20–25 minutes to speak with students and/or if you are possibly speaking to many groups of students throughout a school day or during an after-school career fair or community night event.

Of course, you can also draw upon these ideas if you are conducting a longer session in a classroom with one group of students.

Introduction | 5 Minutes

Allow time for the students to get to know who you were when you were their age. Where did you grow up? What did you enjoy doing in middle school or high school? What were your favorite subjects in school?

Career Path | 5 Minutes

How did you transition from the middle or high school student you just described to the person you are now? What college/community college/apprenticeship/internship experiences did you learn from? When did you decide what you wanted to be when you grew up? What jobs did you have before the one you have now? Why did you decide on your career?

Career Role | 5 Minutes

What is your current job title? What does this mean? What are your day-to-day responsibilities? What problems does your job help solve? What excites you most about working in the biopharmaceutical field? What did you learn in school that helped you in this career? Is there a subject area you wish you had learned more about in school?

Future | 5 Minutes

What do you aspire to do next? What problems do you still want to solve? What problems or innovations could the next generation of employees in the biopharmaceutical field tackle? What does the future look like for your career? If someone wanted to pursue a career similar to yours in the biopharmaceutical industry, what advice would you give?

Question and Answer | 5 Minutes

Be sure to thank the students and teacher or adult facilitator at the end of your session. You may also share resources from your company or from the STEM Careers Coalition website (stemcareerscoalition.org) that students or teachers can explore for more information.

Samples of frequently asked questions by students

Here are some sample questions that students may ask. It may be helpful to think about how you would answer these questions prior to your presentation.

- How long have you worked at your job?
- What projects are you working on now?
- What does your office or job site look like?

Biopharma

SHARE MY CAREER (CONTINUED)



- What type of special training, if any, have you had?
- How many hours do you work each day?
- Do you ever have to travel for work?
- Are you able to use the medication that you work on?
- What biologic are you most excited about?
- Do you have any ideas for new medical or biologic innovations?
- How much money do you make? (You may not want to state your actual salary, but can provide a salary range for jobs like yours.)
- What is the most important part of your industry?
- What do you find hardest or most challenging about your job?
- What do you really like about your job? (Have an answer prepared in advance for this question that is age appropriate for the students with whom you are working. Older students may be interested in hearing more about technology advancement, innovation, and/or the future of your field. Younger students may be excited to hear stories about specific projects you have been involved with, personal success stories, or if you have ever met any patients who have used the products you have worked on!)