

Telling Your Story

Classroom Visit Planning Sheet

Scientist

Work phone:
Home phone:
Cell phone:
e-mail:

Teacher

School phone:
Home phone:
Cell phone:
e-mail:

School Information

Name:
Phone:
Directions to the school:
School parking:

Address:
Principal:

Visit Information

Date of visit:
Check in location:
Special conditions: (i.e. security badges)

Time of arrival:
Meeting location:

Room Type and Equipment

- Auditorium
- Classroom
 - Tables
 - Lab benches
 - Desks
 - Sink
- Cafeteria
- Laboratory
- Other _____

- Overhead projector
- Projection screen
- Computer projector
- Computer
- Internet access
- Whiteboard or chalkboard
- Flip Chart
- TV & VCR
- Other _____

Student Information

Grade level:
Length of class period:
Students with special needs:

Number of students:
Number of class periods:

Planning the Stories

1. Stories the scientist may tell. Refer to the Three Stories Concept Map previously developed.

2. Discuss the goals of the visit

- To have students meet and be inspired by a scientist?
- To share content information?

- To highlight the way in which a scientist works and learns new information?

3. Connecting with students

- What might students already know about the topic?
- What questions might students have about the topic?
- What misconceptions might students have about the topic?
- What specific skills might students need for the visit? (math, maps, graphs)

4. What is the students' understanding of the nature of science, research, and evidence-based explanation?

- How should the scientist approach this to connect with the students?
- What is the students' prior experience with evidence-based explanations?
- What kinds of examples will be effective?

5. Managing the classroom visit

- The teacher knows the students, and is responsible for the students. The teacher is there to support the visit, making sure that the scientist presentation runs smoothly.
- The teacher should remain in the classroom the entire time. The visitor should not be alone with students in the classroom.
- The teacher is responsible for managing students who are disruptive in any way.
- The teacher should interrupt the presentation with a request for clarification if the presentation begins to move beyond the student level of understanding

6. Planning Questions for Teachers and Scientists

Questions for Teachers:

- How will you prepare students to take full advantage of the visit?
- How will you follow up with the students after the visit so they can take full advantage of the visit?

Questions for Scientists:

How will you convey to students:

- How you became interested in science?
- What it is you love about science?
- Why you consider your work important?
- How you arrive at your research questions?
- How you organize yourself and a team to pursue an extended investigation?
- How you gather evidence to help answer your research questions?
- How you use evidence to construct a scientific explanation?

Questions for Both:

- How will you work with each other to make sure that students learn about the importance of studying and protecting the Earth, the nature and excitement of research, and are motivated to continue their study of science?