

Telling Your Story Workshop

Follow-up Tips for Teachers

Thank-You Notes

A thank-you note to the scientist signed by the children in the class will always make an impact, and you'll have your own words of thanks for the scientist's effort as well.

Debrief the Visit with the Class

Shortly after the visit, lead a class discussion to capture students' initial responses. What information or ideas did students find most interesting? Were there any big surprises? How did the visit alter their perceptions of scientists or the work of scientists? Do they have any unanswered questions?

This is also a good time to review any concepts that you feel are important to reinforce. These may be content related, or related to the scientific process

Follow-Up Questions for the Scientist

If the scientist has agreed, collect lingering questions—or new ones—that you or your students may have and send them to the scientist, via e-mail or other means. Occasional exchanges with the scientist can add an exciting new element to the science program. Maybe students can report some of their own new discoveries to the scientist, and respond to questions the scientist may have.

Opportunities for Longer-Term Impact

Has the scientist discussed aspects of the scientific process that you might adopt for long-term use in your science curriculum? Quoting a scientist whom your students know can have a special impact. For example:

“Do you remember that _____ spoke to us about how careful scientists are to base their claims on data? That's also important in science class.”

“ Do you remember we learned about a group of scientists who studied _____ for ten years before they agreed they understood how it worked? That kind of thoroughness is always important in science”