

Ideas for Professional and Personal Stories to Share with your 2nd Grade Students

Building a meaningful relationship with the students in your JA program is a key element for success. By sharing well planned stories from your life experience you help the students understand the real world application and relevance of the material you are teaching. But most importantly, your personal stories strengthen their ability to relate to you and develop a personal connection.

Consider bringing some personal items to support your stories. A photo of yourself at their age, artifacts from your travels, item with your company logo, etc. can be a great complement to your story.

Lesson 1 “How Does a Community Work”

- Talk about how your job or business provides a benefit to the community. Focus on how your product or service benefits others.

Lesson 2 “Sweet ‘O’ Donuts”

- Share a time when working as a team created a better result than if you had done the work individually.
- Have you ever had a job where you were directly involved in production (food services, manufacturing, construction, etc). Share your experience!
- Explain your responsibility in your workplace for delivering a quality product. What would happen if your product was subpar?
- Have you ever had an experience with a defective product, as a consumer or producer? How did it affect you? How did it influence your opinion of that brand?

Lesson 3 “The Role of Government”

- Has there been a recent election in your city or state to approve a tax for a community good? Examples might include a ballot measurement to build a new stadium in Denver, or funding for Higher Education.
- Do you, a family member or friend work for the government? Do you have gov’t worker colleagues? Explain how their salaries are paid through tax revenue. What would happen to these jobs if there were no taxes? What would be the impact of not having anyone doing that type of work?

Lesson 4 “A New Business”

- Conceptually, this lesson is about the process of making a good decision. Share a time when you made a difficult decision as part of a group. Talk them through how you analyzed your options, the decision you made, and the results. Example: I own a restaurant and had to decide if I wanted to open a 2nd restaurant in another area of town...
- If you vote, describe what the experience was like for you. Did you cast a mail-in ballot or vote in person? How did you get information about the candidates/issues?

Lesson 5 “Money Moves”

- Describe how money flows through your workplace: customer pays your business, your business pays your salary, you use that money to purchase something you need from another business, etc.