

Ideas for Professional and Personal Stories to Share with your First 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 “Our Families”

- How is work divided within your family? What roles do you play, and what do your family members contribute (you wash the dishes, your spouse mows the lawn)?
- How do you contribute to the greater good in your workplace, and what role do you play in your office? (You make the coffee each morning, you collect the recycling, etc.)
- Describe how your family has changed over the years (best to focus on the additions rather than subtractions to your family). Examples might include: a sibling gets married and the spouse becomes part of the family, a new baby sister is born, etc.

Lesson 2 “Our Families’ Needs and Wants”

- What are some of the things that you “want”, but choose not to purchase so that you can spend your money on the things you “need.”

Lesson 3 “Our Families’ Jobs”

- When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Share your childhood dreams with your class. How did your goals change as you grew up?
- What do you do for a job, what jobs do your family members have? (Parents, siblings, children, etc.)

Lesson 4 “Finding our Families’ Needs and Wants”

- Can you think of a time when you couldn’t get something you needed in your neighborhood? How did you go about getting it?
- Conceptually, the mapping activity teaches about symbol recognition. What symbols do you use in your workplace (Examples could include: \$, %, 📄). Why is it important that everyone in your workplace understands them?

Lesson 5 “Playing for Our Families’ Needs and Wants”

- After the student complete the charades activity, mime for them your very first job. Have them guess what that job was. After they guess, share details about what you liked about the job, or how it helped build your career.