Health Sciences Career Spotlight

PLANNING NOTES:
1) **Teams**: 2 students (pairs); 2) **Length**: Approx. 6-8 classes (2 weeks)

Design a Health Science Career Fair Booth

OVERVIEW:

Resources Needed: Computers, Materials for health fair booths (ideally, tri-fold boards, but students can be assigned to obtain if possible and they can decide to use alternative materials)

Awareness and understanding of the vast array of health science careers is often limited among youth. Often young people do not realize that teamwork and collaboration are essential among interdisciplinary teams of health science professionals. They don't know all of the unique roles and jobs they could pursue in healthcare that would lead to a great impact on society. Can you create a booth for a health careers fair that will inform and engage youth in your community about one health career--ideally the one you are most passionate about?

Health Fair Logistics: Ideally, this could be a community event. Students from other classes & other schools along with parents/community members could be invited. Health professionals could be invited to view and/or evaluate them, as well as ask questions of each booth. These community partners could even be drawn from the folks who helped during the case by being interviewed. Prizes could be awarded for best booths.

GOALS:

1. Identify ways that professionals in health science careers collaborate on interdisciplinary teams and use critical thinking and problem solving skills in their everyday work.

2. Communicate orally and visually in a clear, compelling, and professional way.

Alternatively, if logistics of a larger health fair are unfeasible, the health career fair booths could be presented within classes or be left on display for a short time in hallway, gymnasium, cafeteria, etc.

OBJECTIVE:

Obj. 15.8: Identify how teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving are relevant to a career in the health sciences.

DELIVERABLE:

1) Health Fair Booth
2) Post Health Careers Fair Reflection

Consider allowing students to either choose partners or choose their career (and instructor matches based on similar interests). Also consider allowing only a few pairs per career. For more common/popular choices like nursing or medicine, require students to pick a specific type/specialty/track within that larger umbrella

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Health Fair Booth:

1) Includes basic background information as well as examples of scenarios in which teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving are used in the career

2) Includes an engaging "hook" for visitors to the health careers fair that is relevant and aligned to the theme

3) Professionalism is visible in all aspects of written, visual, and oral communication as well as overall appearance and conduct at health careers fair

Suggested Steps:

_____ 1. Complete your collaboration contract with your partner.

_____ 2. Finalize your health science career choice and get it approved by instructor.

_____ 3. Conduct background research on the profession.

_____ 4. Complete at least one interview with a person in the health profession.

_____ 5. Develop example scenarios in which a person in the profession would need to use teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills

_____ 6. Brainstorm ideas for your health careers fair booth.

_____ 7. Plan and execute preparation for your health career fairs booth.

_____ 8. Present your booth at the health career fair. Be professional and have fun!

_____ 9. Reflect upon the experience.

Collaboration Contract:

With your partner, fill out the following contract together:

Team Member	Strengths	Things I am working on...	Contact information

Now devise a short set of teamwork and collaboration 'norms' or rules that you will agree to in order to ensure you achieve the best possible outcome together:

Teamwork Norms
Suggestions: --Sharing hours that it is okay to call; best ways to get in touch & agreed upon time limit for follow up --Expectations for sharing work load evenly --How to handle disagreements --How to resolve conflicts

Health Science Career Choice:

1. List your and your partner's top five career interests in the health sciences:

Your Career Interests	Your Partners Career Interests
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

2. Discuss any common career interests or similar career fields. Narrow your list down to the top three you can both agree upon. (This may require some give and take. Be open to trying something new!)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. Seek approval for your top choice from your instructor.

FINAL CAREER: _____

4. Brainstorm a list of reasons that this career will be important to highlight at the health career fair in the box below.

Background Research:

1. Determine the key information you need to find about your career (e.g. salary range). List these things below:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Other Suggestions:
--Tasks & responsibilities
--Training/education required
--Average cost of training/education
--Average compensation or starting salary, salary cap and typical salary range
--Typical hours/shifts/work distribution
--Amount of flexibility in schedule
--Job outlook/expected growth
--Benefits/perks
--Drawbacks/common complaints
--Amount & type of interaction with others
--Challenges or toughest aspects of job
--Similar jobs

2. Find credible and helpful websites to provide information about your career. Some suggestions to get started are listed below:

1. BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/

2. Explore health careers: http://explorehealthcareers.org

3. MedLine Plus: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthoccupations.html

3. Using a computer or tablet for word processing capabilities, organize the information you gather into a set of notes that you can later draw from to create your health career fair booth. Be sure to track sources for any material that needs to be cited. This includes statistics, quotations, and information that is not general knowledge.

Interview:

Locate a health professional in the field you are focused on (or a very closely related field) to interview about the career. Try to find someone locally, but if necessary, reach out to health professionals around the state or nation and conduct your interview via Skyppe/Facetime, Phone, or Email.

GOALS:

1. Engage in critical thinking and dialogue with experts and professionals in healthcare.
2. Determine specific information about the career and examples of instances where teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving are used in the career.

Recall: Curiosity, initiative, problem-solving, communication, and resourcefulness are all important when you engage with professionals in the real world. Be sure to represent yourself well!

INTERVIEW INFORMATION:

Name of Professional: _____
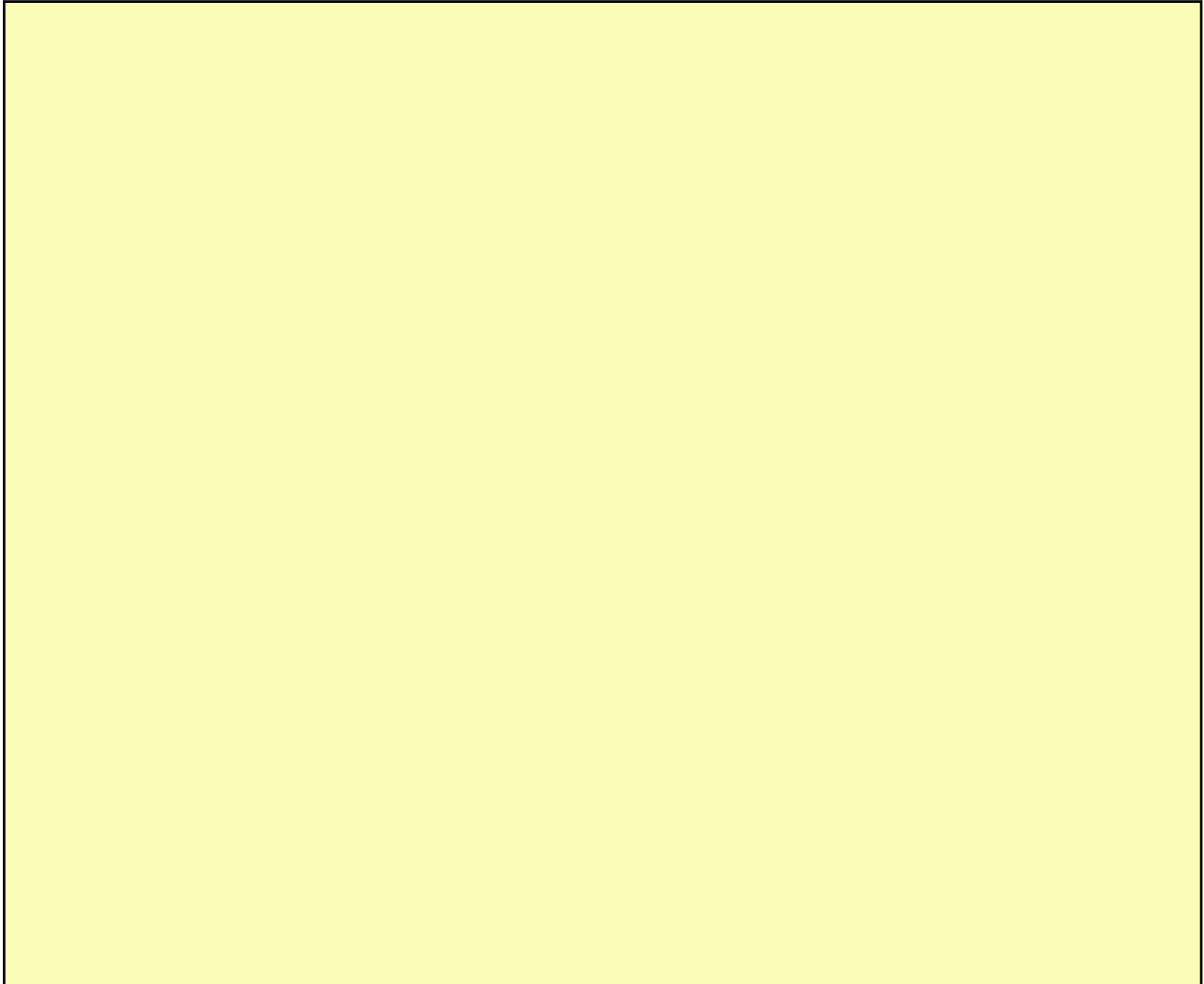
Career/Profession/Title:

Interview Date/Time: _____
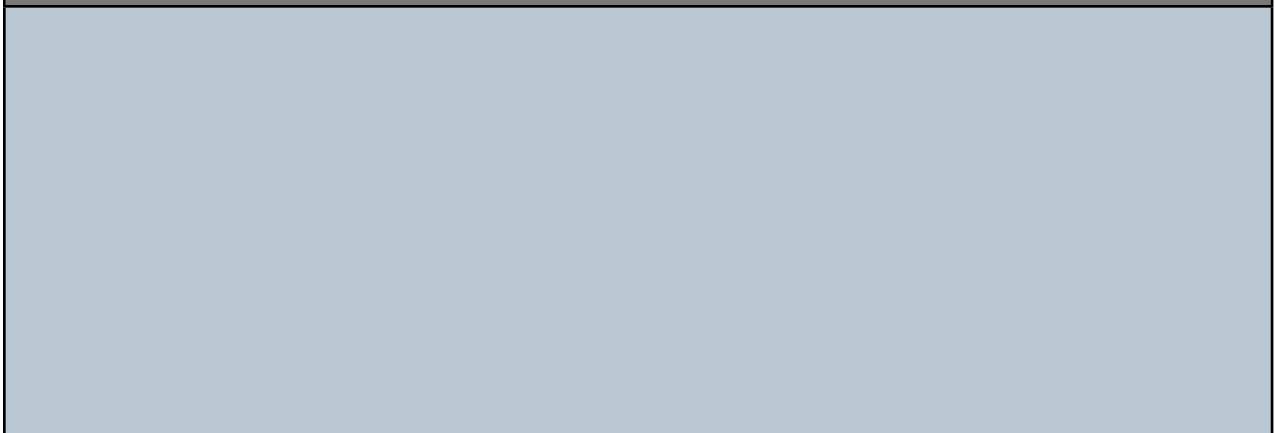
Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Signature *(if in person)*: _____ **Date:** _____

Interview Questions:

Questions *(Prepare in advance; write answers on separate sheet of paper)*

Other Notes & Reflections

Scenarios:

Skill	Example Scenarios
Teamwork	
Critical Thinking	
Problem Solving	

Brainstorm Ideas:

What do you picture when you think of a health fair? A career fair? What about a health career fair? This event will become what we make of it, so let's think BIG! On a separate sheet of paper, brainstorm for your booth, considering questions such as:

- What is your main goal?

- What do you want visitors to walk away from your booth knowing? thinking? feeling?

- What information is most important to convey: visually? orally? in other ways?

- How can you draw people in to your booth? Think about a "hook..." What will catch their eye or make them interested in stopping by?

- How can you engage people when they are at your booth in an interactive way?

- How can you make learning fun at your booth?

- How will you know what people learned from your booth? Can you somehow measure their change in knowledge and/or attitude or opinion?

- What things will you SAY? What questions can you ask to engage visitors?

Plan & Execute:

Task	Detail	Deadline	Owner

Reflect:

1. Jot down some of your **observations:**

    A) From the health careers fair, in general

    B) From your booth specifically

2. What went well and not so well at your booth? Explain why you believe these things occurred?

3, How would you evaluate you and your partner on... (explain your answers)

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