Here are some ways to engage learners during your session! You can also click here to schedule a quick brainstorming call to discuss ideas for your particular session.

Structure Your Time

It typically works well to break down your 30-45 minute session into these 3 parts:

- **2-3 Minute**s: Introduce yourself & your work
- **5-15 Minutes**: Explore the session topic *(here are 30 second examples of a virtual tour, demonstration, topic presentation, guided activity, project evaluation, project mentoring, and Q&A session)*.
- **10-15 Minutes**: Q&A

Speak on the Students Level

Be mindful that students' knowledge and vocabularies will vary by age.

- **Provide Context/Examples**: Share background info, experiences, pop culture references, etc.
- **Connect Learning to the Real World**: Highlight how classroom learning ties into real careers.
- **Simplify Language**: Consider students' vocabulary levels and background knowledge
- **Keep it Short**: Share small chunks of info at a time, and for younger students brevity is best.

Use Visuals

- **Introduce Your Environment**: Share tools, equipment, etc. or even walk around.
- **Demonstrate a Process**: Let students see step-by-step how you do something.
- **Share Your Screen**: Show websites, photos, slides, memes, or use the Zoom whiteboard to draw.

Explore Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Topics

- Consider diversity: Think about representation on any slides, etc. you share so that when possible, students see adults representing the diversity they may see in their classrooms.
- Talk About Your Background: Share some ways it may have influenced your trajectory. Has your pathway seemed typical (or not) in its direction?

- **Inspire Feelings of Belonging**: Use inclusive language and encourage students to utilize their own cultural capital as a tool while pursuing areas of interest and joining/influencing work environments.
- **Be Mindful of Accessibility**: Since learning needs differ, be mindful of your rate of speech, lighting, visuals, etc. to support all participants' experiences during the session.
- **Reach Out to the Educator(s)**: Especially if you'll be speaking with students from a different region of the country, consider messaging the teacher(s) to see if there's anything to keep in mind when speaking with their class(es).

Be Interactive

- **Ask Questions**: "What do you think of ___?" or "Do you agree or disagree about ____?"
- **Poll Participants**: "Raise your hand if ___" or "Type 'y' if yes, you think ___."
- **Get Input**: Ask participants for predictions or ideas as you demonstrate how to do something.
- **Put Students to Work**: Assign a small, relevant task (e.g. "sketch a ____").
- **Make a Sequence**: List the steps of something out of order and have students help sequence correctly.
- **Expand Engagement**: Be brief when answering questions so more students can participate.
- **Turn & Talk**: "Turn to a peer and spend a minute discussing ___" and then share out. *(If school in-person)*

Engage Students In Live Stream Mode

- **Mix it Up**: - Every 2-5 minutes use a new sound effect, video clip, question/poll, visual, etc.
- **Be extra visual**: Keep students' attention with lots to look at - holding up tools, exploring your work environment, sharing screen to do a mini-demo of a task, etc.
- **Be Relatable**: Help students connect with you by sharing your mindset and photos of yourself from along your career journey.
- **Use the Live Q&A Feature**: Keep asking questions and discussing responses - yes/no, multiple choice, short answer (depending on ages), etc. Use emojis for responses too!
- **Share Your Passion**: Students can tell when you're excited about what you're sharing and enthusiasm can be contagious!

Get the Tech Right

These simple but important tech tips will help it be a great connection.

- **Check Your Tech**: Follow these steps *before* your session.
- **Speak Up**: If there are tech issues (e.g. you can't hear students), stop and let us know.
- **Think About Participants' Experience**: Speak loudly and move slowly if walking around.
- **Share Your Desktop**: If you share your screen, this makes toggling smoother.

Also Remember…

- **Complete Your Profile**: Include a few sentences about yourself and a profile pic [here](#) so classes have a little background before your session.
- **Mention Salary Ranges**: Students are often curious about earnings for different professions, so if applicable offer a general range for the field you're discussing.
- **Share Selectively**: Avoid sharing anything overtly sales-oriented, and if necessary, make sure you get your HR department's permission to share content with students.
- **Steer Away from Some Topics**: Unless the session is specifically about religion or politics, it's generally best to avoid them.
- **Do not share any contact information** on slides, chat or verbally. All communication with students must go through the requesting educator.
- **Have fun!!!**