

Volunteers week: workshop

<p>Session summary</p> <p>This session will make students aware of the importance of volunteering: for charities/other organisations, people who benefit from the support of volunteers, as well as the volunteers themselves. Students will work on activities that will encourage them to think about what their priorities would be for a volunteer role and how they would actively look for volunteering experience.</p>	<p>Alumni role:</p> <p>This session could be relevant for a range of former students, as they will all have volunteering experience through the alumni network. Former students who work in the charity sector/work with volunteers would be particularly useful to contribute to this session.</p>
<p>Learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn about the importance of volunteering and have the opportunity to thank former student volunteers for their support and commitment • Students understand how volunteering experience is very beneficial in helping to get a job • Students have the tools to look for volunteering roles and know what they should be looking for 	
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Role priorities cards 	
<p>Pre-session preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to the volunteers over the phone and let them know what to expect from the session, as well as finding out what volunteering experience they have and whether it helped them get a job, and/or if they have ever hired anyone because of their volunteering experience • Make sure an appropriate room has been allocated 	

Timings	Section content	Key objective and link to next section
0-5	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefly outline objectives as on slide and mention the fact that former students have come to speak to students about their experiences. 	<p>Objective: to understand the main objectives of the session.</p> <p>Link: to help us understand why volunteering is so important, we've got some former students to speak to you.</p>
5-10	<p>Former students: career pathways and volunteering experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former students introduce themselves, say when they left the school and briefly describe their career pathway. - Show slide with questions focused on volunteering and either ask the former students yourself or get students to ask the questions. 	<p>Objective: to understand who the former students are, learn about their careers and volunteering experience.</p> <p>Link: volunteers week is all about celebrating volunteering and thanking volunteers.</p>

10-15	Why is volunteering important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the main benefits of volunteering: to the charity/organisation, to the beneficiaries, to the volunteer, and to society. - Explain that volunteers' week is an opportunity to celebrate the commitment these individuals give and say thank you to them. Thank alumni who have attended for volunteering their time. - Ask former students why they think volunteering is so important, and what their motivations are for volunteering (both in general and specifically at their old school). 	Objective: to understand why so many charities and organisations rely on volunteers. Link: volunteering is so important for the organisations and people that volunteers support, but it's also really important for the volunteer themselves.
15-25	How can volunteering help me get a job? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former students will join a group. Ask students to discuss and come up with five transferable skills that volunteering could give you, with the help of their volunteer. Ask for feedback and then bring up the skills on the board. - Explain where volunteering experience could come into a job application – CV, cover letter, interview etc. - Ask former students to give any stories of where having volunteer experience has helped them to get a job/if they have given someone a job because of their volunteering experience. 	Objective: to understand the benefits of volunteering to the individual and how to relate this experience to job applications. Link: it's important to find the right volunteer role for you, so that you are developing relevant skills and the opportunity is enjoyable.
25-40	What should I look for in a volunteering role? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain to the students that they will be doing a Diamond 9 activity, using cards that represent different priorities for a volunteering role. They should aim to come to a group decision. - Get each group to feedback to the wider class about their priorities and explain why they've chosen their top priority. - Ask former students to share their experiences of what they were looking for in a volunteering role and whether their volunteering experiences have met their requirements. 	Objective: to reflect on what kind of volunteering opportunity would be the most beneficial and enjoyable for the students. Link: now that we know what we would be looking for in a volunteer role, let's discuss how to go about finding these opportunities.
40-50	How do I find volunteering opportunities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give students an A3 sheet and ask each group to write down the headings on the board which represent different places they could find volunteering opportunities. Under each headline they should write the kinds of volunteering roles 	Objective: to give students the practical tools to search for volunteering opportunities that they can apply for. Link: of course it's really important to get work experience as well, but

	<p>they may find, and what they think the application process would be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask for feedback from the student groups, and ask volunteers to explain how they found volunteer roles. - Bring up the do-it volunteering page for your area (link is within the PP) and demonstrate to students how to search for a volunteering opportunity. 	volunteering experience can be even more beneficial when applying for a job.
50-55	<p>Why are employers so interested in volunteering experience?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run through the detail on the slide, explaining that when applicants have very little work experience volunteering can put them ahead of other applicants. - Ask former students how their volunteering experience has been fulfilling and rewarding. 	<p>Objective: to help students understand the multiple benefits to them as a volunteer.</p> <p>Link: let's hear from our former students one last time before we end the session.</p>
55-60	<p>Final advice and conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go over the objectives for the workshop and confirm that these have been met. - Ask the volunteers if they would be willing to share a final bit of advice with the students. 	<p>Objective: students will reflect on what they have learnt during the workshop.</p>

Comments and adaptations