



# EPIC DAY 2024 TEACHER GUIDE

Help your students get the most from their EPIC experience!

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## **Hello Teachers!**

### **The Career Transitions team is pleased to welcome you to EPIC DAY 2024!**

We hope you and your students find this day enjoyable and informative. The purpose of the event is all about career EXPLORATION – it is an opportunity for students to become aware of and explore different career pathways. This is a starting point. There is no expectation that students should make long term career decisions based on one day of discovery, as there is far more exploration and research to be done in order to determine what their next steps following high school graduation might look like.

Students don't know what they don't know. For students who are already focused on a particular career pathway, information from this event may help them decide if they are on the right track, or if an entirely new career pathway is of interest to them.

Our goal is for EPIC DAY 2024 to be an informative and engaging day for students, their supervisors, and exhibitor hosts. We are pleased to share this document/work sheet as a means by which we can help prepare students to have meaningful and productive conversations with our exhibitors.

The document includes pre-event discussion points for teachers; examples of questions for students and teachers to ask exhibitor hosts the day of the event; and pre- and post-event reflection questions for students. Please feel free to edit this document as needed to support any specific learning outcomes that you have identified for your students.

We hope this document proves to be a useful tool in helping your students to prepare for the event, and for reflecting on how their experiences can help them make informed choices as begin the process of building interesting, dynamic career pathways.

**The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. - Steve Jobs, entrepreneur**

### ***Discussion Points for Teachers (Pre-Event Reflection Questions):***

**Activity One:** In most Exploration Zones, students will see one occupation from each of the following sectors: Trades, Health, Agriculture and Environment, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

- What types of occupations fall within each of these sectors?
  - Discuss why occupations might fall in multiple sectors – why is this important when considering career pathways?
- What interests and/or skills do you think are needed in these sectors?
  - Begin exploring how student interest and skills can match up with potential occupational choices.
  - Discuss if there are any special skills students might need in certain sectors.
    - What sectors might be hands-on?
    - What sectors might require a lot of interpersonal skills?
    - What sectors might allow you to work more independently, or as part of a team?
- What do you hope to learn about the occupation related to each of these sectors?
  - Students will learn something about all occupations, regardless of their level of interest.
  - Students realize that various occupations overlap and have similarities and differences.
  - Knowing what we do not like can be just as important as understanding what we do like. Stress the importance of learning something at every booth – keeping an open mind and using the information gathered to further understand options and choices they will be making as they move along their career pathway.
- What might be some concerns/ apprehensions you have about occupations in these sectors?
- How do these sectors contribute to our society/community/economy? Why are they important?
  - i.e., the range of food products grown in Southern Alberta or how trades are critical to building schools/hospitals etc. and to transporting goods.

**A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open.  
— Frank Zappa**

### **Activity Two:**

- What are your main interests? How can these interests direct your research about occupational choices?
  - Students will consider what school subjects they are drawn to, what they like to read, or how they spend their free time. Perhaps they are teaching themselves how to play the guitar – they may not be good at it yet, but they like spending time doing it.
  - Discuss how hobbies and other activities can translate into workplace skills.
  - Students will focus on their interests and what that might mean in an occupation.
- What are you passionate about? How can these passions translate into an occupation?
  - Students discuss the importance of trying to find an occupation they can get excited about.
  - Discuss how passions can translate into work-place skills – i.e.: a student who plays sports or dances... perseverance, commitment, memory skills, organizational skills, teamwork, etc. – how do these skills translate over to the world of work?
- What are you good at? What are your talents? How can knowing your skills help you to explore occupations?  
i.e., Are you well organized? Mechanically inclined? A good listener? Creative? We all have many more skills than we realize, and it is helpful to start identifying what we do well so that we can start to figure out our next steps following high school graduation.

***Discussion Points for Teachers (Post-Event Reflection Questions):***

***Activity One: Career Conference:***

- What stood out for you?
- Is there a particular sector that you want to explore further?
- What are the different ways that people prepare themselves to work in those occupations (trades apprenticeship, college diploma, training on the job, university degree)?
- Out of the five occupations that you explored, which ones stood out for you and for what reason(s)?
- What were you most surprised by?
- Did what you learned about an occupation cause you to see it differently by the end of the session?
- Did you learn anything that will help you to consider what courses you wish to take next year?

***Activity Two: Business Tour***

- Have you ever toured a business like that before?
- What is interesting about what they do?
- What are some of the occupations that you learned about?
- How do those occupations/roles impact the success of the business?
- Which occupations were the most interesting to learn about?
- What surprised you about the business?