

Step-by-step guide to volunteering at an Inspiring the Future Guess My Job event



inspiring the **future**
Aotearoa

How Guess My Job events work

Guess My Job involves:

- **20 questions.** Role models sit in front of students panel style and students ask you questions to try and guess your job.
- **The reveal.** You leave the room and then come back wearing your work clothes or holding a prop that represents what you do. You reveal your story – what job you do, the pathway you took to get there and any challenges you faced.
- **Discussion groups.** Students sit with you to ask questions and learn more about your story and job.

Watch a video of a Guess My Job event in action at inspiringthefuture.org.nz

Guess My Job events help broaden students' career horizons and challenge stereotypes.

They may also have a theme to help link school learning to jobs. For example, schools can choose a subject, industry, educational pathway, or another topic.



What you need to know about being a role model

Before the event

- Decide what clothes or prop you will take to represent the work you do (see below for ideas).
- Prepare a short talk about your story that you can share at the reveal (see below for ideas).
- Think about what you'd like to say in the discussion groups.
- Check the event invitation online. It includes important details about the event, eg, the event start time, the age of the students, if there will be a welcome ceremony and your required response. Contact the event organiser if you need more details.

What to wear and bring to the event

- Wear casual clothes.
- Bring your work clothes or a prop that represents the work you do with you (they should be hidden in a bag).

Ideas for props

- something you use at work, eg, a tool
- an example of your work, or
- a photo of you doing your mahi; or
- wear what you would usually wear to work.

TIP: If your prop is something that students can interact with during the discussion groups, even better.

Examples of props to represent jobs or sectors

SECTOR	PROP
Finance	Credit cards, money, piggy bank
Engineering and manufacturing	Toolbox
Environment and agriculture	Plants
Hospitality and events management	Apron
Information technology	Computer hardware
Law	Gavel
Marketing, advertising and public relations	Products, storyboards, media release in a publication
Social services	Teddy bear
Transport and logistics	Toy train/car/ aeroplane

TIP: We get a lot of feedback on how important props are at events. If you're stuck on what to bring, ask other role models in the [Inspiring the Future Aotearoa Role Model LinkedIn group](#).

The main event

Follow the arrival instructions and time the organiser gives you.

20 questions activity

You'll sit with the other role models in front of the students wearing your casual clothes. You will be numbered so the students can identify you.

A teacher will invite students to ask you closed questions such as:

- Do you use science in your job?
- Do you wear a uniform?

You answer “yes” or “no”, “sometimes” or “maybe”. Every role model answers every question.

The students will write the answers on a worksheet.

You’ll then leave the room with the other role models and change into your work clothes or pick up your prop.

While you’re away, the students will try to guess what everyone’s job is.

The reveal

You’ll return wearing your work clothes or holding your prop.

A teacher will prompt you to step forward, say your name and reveal your job. You then have 1—3 minutes to talk about your job.

You should include:

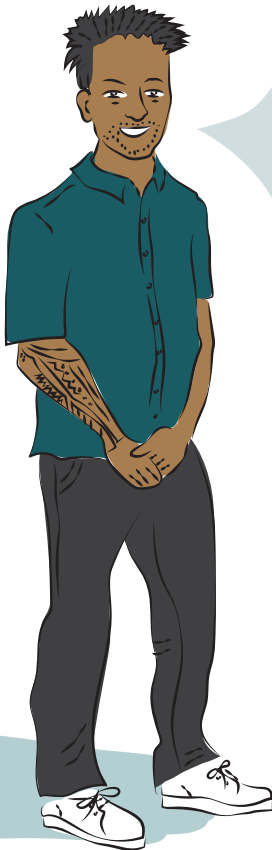
- what you do now (explain your job in simple language)
- how you got to do what you do now (your pathway)
- how you overcame any challenges along the way.

You could write down your reveal statement before the event and bring it with you to read out.

Watch examples of job reveals

TIP: If you find it hard to explain your job in simple terms, consider using an analogy. One role model used a bake sale analogy to explain her job as a marketing manager. She said, “Everyone loves chocolate chip cookies, right? Well, it’s my job to make everyone wants the raisin cookies instead.”

Example of what to talk about in the reveal



Talofa lava. My name’s Dwayne and I’m a web designer.

I come from a traditional Samoan family. My parents believed in the church and in education. They wanted us to be the best we could be. They moved to New Zealand to give us a better life.

After secondary school, I wasn’t sure what to do next. For a while I felt lost, not knowing my place in the world. I ended up working for a real estate business, taking photos of houses for sale and putting them onto a website. That’s when I became interested in how websites work, so I went to university and studied web design.

Now I’m working for a cool company that makes websites and videos for all sorts of different people, from e-bike shops to musicians!

Discussion groups

After the reveal, the students break into small groups around each role model to ask questions and learn more about you, what you do and how you got there.

- Think about what you'd like to say about your job and your pathway before the event.
- Read about the school's values on the event invitation. Is there something the school would like you to talk about or share during the discussion groups?
- Encourage the students to ask you questions.

Tips

Sometimes you might get a quiet group of students during the discussion groups. Here are some tips to get the kōrero going.

- Ask students to introduce themselves and tell you their favourite [school subject/hobby/something related to your job].
- Ask them what career pathways they are interested in.
- Ask students what school subjects and/or hobbies/interests they enjoy.
- Prepare some statements about your job, for students to guess which are true and which are false.
- Bring an interactive prop or demonstrate something you are currently working on.

TIP: Look up the average pay for your job before the event to answer pay-related questions. **Tahatū Career Navigator** has pay data for over 800 careers.

Questions students might ask

20 questions activity

We provide students with these example questions for the 20 questions activity.

- Do you work indoors most of the time?
- Do you wear a uniform for your job?
- Do you work with animals?
- Do you use a computer every day?
- Do you control big machines at work?
- Do you work with children?
- Do you work outside?
- Do you work in the same place every day?
- Are art and design a part of your job?
- Do you work in an office?
- Have you done an apprenticeship?
- Do you do shift work?
- Do you work with food?
- Do you travel for your job?
- Do you wear protective gear (like a helmet or gloves)?
- Are you the boss of other people?
- Do you have to work weekends?
- Do you talk to lots of people every day?
- Do you need to go to university for your job?
- Do you build or fix things?
- Do you teach people?
- Do you drive a vehicle as part of your job?
- Do you work with plants or trees?
- Do you use science a lot in your job?
- Does your job help protect the environment?

Discussion groups

We provide students with these example questions for the discussion groups.

- What does a typical day look like in your job?
- What advice would you give someone who wants to do your job?
- What do you enjoy most about your work?
- Do you think the type of work you do will still be around when I'm your age?
- What is the most challenging part of your job?
- What made you choose this career?
- Are there other jobs you want to do in the future?
- What do you wish you knew about jobs when you were younger?
- What did you learn at school that helps you do your work now?
- What skills and qualities help someone succeed in your job?
- What school subjects did you like, or were you good at?
- What would your perfect day at work look like?
- Tell us about a mistake you've made at work and what you did after.
- Do you need to know much te reo Māori for your work?
- What is something surprising about your job?
- Can you describe your workplace any equipment you use?
- What do you wear to work, and why?
- What are you working on right now at your work?
- What other jobs have you had?
- What was the worst job you ever had? Did you learn anything important?

Advice and support

For advice and support from other role models, join the **Inspiring the Future Aotearoa Role Model LinkedIn group**.

Or contact the team behind Inspiring the Future at the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

Email: inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 601 301



**Tertiary Education
Commission**

Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua

 @InspiringtheFutureNZ

 inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz

 Inspiring the Future Aotearoa

 0800 601 301

 inspiringthefuture.org.nz