



Career Discovery Solutions

Guidelines: Creating a Real-World Problem Middle School Age Students Can Solve

- 1) The written problem statement needs to be available to the teaching staff at least three weeks before your presentation at the school, so they can research the skills necessary for the students to solve the problem and prepare to teach any information that has not yet been covered in class.
- 2) Include a glossary of separate vocabulary terms that might be industry-specific, or above the middle school level of understanding.
- 3) The students should need math skills to be able to solve the problem. Middle school students are studying percentages, ratios, decimals, multiplication.
- 4) The problem should engage the students' sense of creativity.
- 5) The problem should be specific to your industry.
- 6) The problem should be able to be presented within 20 minutes or so (separate guidelines cover the presentation).
- 7) Remember that these students will be running the city in a few short years. They could be people you will be hiring in the near future – or who will be hiring you.
- 8) You will be hosting a team (6 to 8 students) at your firm for a site visit soon after your presentation at the school, so that the students can research the problem in person and ask more questions. A small meeting room would be good.
- 9) Plan to attend the team's presentation to their class about two weeks later, at their school.
- 10) Spend some time evaluating the solution the students recommend. It will be very helpful to have some feedback we can give the students. If the solution is implemented at your firm, we would like to congratulate the students and give the program some publicity.