



“Questionable Questions” What Students May Ask

When working with young people, there will inevitably be times when they ask a question that seems out of place, perhaps too personal or out of context. Here are some questions that may come up with some suggestions for how to handle it:

**“DO YOU
LIKE IT
HERE?”**

This can be a sticky question, especially if they ask in front of your supervisor. When they ask this question, they aren't trying to ask if you like your co-workers, your boss, or your company. They are asking if you like the work you do each day, or if you like the path you chose.

**“WHAT KIND
OF CAR DO
YOU DRIVE?”**

When asking what kind of car you drive, how big your house is, or something similar about your life, they are trying their best to find a polite way to learn about the lifestyle that they could have if they chose your career path.

**“HOW MUCH
MONEY DO
YOU MAKE?”**

Young people want to enter careers that are not just enjoyable, but also provide an income that supports their dreams. They aren't asking to see your pay stubs; in response, you can provide them an average salary range for positions like yours.



**“WHAT’S
YOUR
FAVORITE
COLOR?”**

When interacting with young people during career exploration, it is very important to provide them with information on your job/field, but also to be friendly and engaging. When they ask your favorite color, what you had for breakfast, or other off-topic questions, they may just be trying to get to know you.



**“WHAT
TIME IS
LUNCH?”**

Remember that students, especially elementary or middle school kids, have shorter attention spans than older students. That doesn't mean that the experience you provided is uninteresting, just that their brain is ready to move on. Utilizing hands-on learning or games can keep their interest longer.



**“ARE YOU
MARRIED?”**

Young people are not always fully aware of what is appropriate to ask about others' personal lives. It's ok to share some details with students, but if they ask something that feels too personal, communicate a boundary that is firm but kind. “That's a personal question and I'm only answering work-related questions today.”

By hosting students for a work-based learning opportunity, you are also modeling and teaching them how to communicate in a workplace. They may not get it right the first time, but your feedback will help them learn and grow.

Questions? Visit: www.CareerReadyAllegheny.org