

Break-Out Session Conversation Helpers

If students are having a difficult time starting to address the focus question, consider some of these conversation starter scripts or role playing scenarios:

Conversation Starter Script

When considering what are some of the barriers to gaining employment, let's think about it in categories:

1. For me: My specific disability or circumstances can make (what activity or skill) challenging.
2. For my parents: Are they nervous about me having a job? Or using transit all by myself? Do they think it is too dangerous? Let's think about it from their perspective and how that might be an obstacle for you.
3. For employers; Do they know how to speak to me about my disability? What things should they know? How could I help them dispel some of the ideas they might have about me being able to do the job.
4. Do I know how to explain my disability? Would it help if there was some way to practice answering questions? Or for an interview?

Role playing scenarios

Scenario A)

You are a student with anxiety and ADHD. You usually rely on your parents to help you get places or to organize your appointments. Mom and Dad share one vehicle and work shifts, so it's hard to have a consistent time of day to drive you places. They are also nervous about you going by yourself on the transit.

Two casts: Character 1 - student, character 2 - mom, character 3 - dad.

Have those two groups brainstorm a response and short skit. Present each and see the different ideas that come up.

Scenario B)

You are a student with hearing loss and wear hearing aids. You work at a pizza place and take orders on the phone but your hearing aids have been sent in for repair and they won't be back for two weeks.

How do you tell your boss? What could happen instead of you taking orders from the phone. You're afraid you might be fired.

Two casts: Character 1 - employee with hearing loss, Character 2 - other employee, Character 3 - boss/manager. Have those two groups brainstorm a response and short skit. Present each and see the different ideas that come up.

Scenario C)

You are a student with a learning disability. Visual supports for reminders about a task is one helpful strategy you use to be successful. A help-wanted ad is posted at the local Zehrs grocery store for stocking shelves and receiving deliveries for all dairy products. You have applied for the job and have an interview in 2 weeks.

Mrs. Smith will be interviewing you. She has sent a few questions ahead of time to prepare.

1) How do you handle multiple requests for tasks to be completed during a shift? 2) How do you monitor how quickly tasks are being completed? 3) How will you make sure everything gets done on your shift?

Two Casts:

Character 1 - Student waiting for the interview, Character 2 - friend from school. Have those two groups brainstorm a response and short skit. Present each and see the different ideas that come up.