How to Get the Most from a Career Fair

It may seem a little overwhelming to you to think about talking to a room full of strangers at the Career Fair. Below are tips to help you get the most out of the experience.

**Before the Fair**

**Have A Plan**
- Spend some time the weekend before the fair looking through the list of businesses/colleges to figure out which businesses/colleges you want to learn more about.
- Then go to the company’s/college’s website to learn a little bit about them. This will make the questions you ask more beneficial. For example, instead of asking them what they do, you can ask them about a specific part of their company’s product/service or the college’s programs.

**Prepare Your Introduction and Practice A Firm Handshake**
- “Hello, my name is ______ and I am a ________ student at ________ High School.”
- Refer to the sample questions found [here](#) and think about what you want to ask before you get to the fair.

**At the Fair**

**What to Bring**
- Bring a list of questions for the businesses and colleges.
- Be sure to bring a pen/pencil and paper to take notes.

**What to Wear**
- Be conscious of what you wear and the impressions it will give the representatives of the business or college.
- This fair is not designed to be a job fair; it is a fair where you can explore careers to learn more.
- How you dress will make an impression, so don’t come in sweats or worn-out jeans. Wearing jeans and a t-shirt are fine; nice jeans with a button-down shirt are even better.

**Approaching the Business/College**
- Walk up to the representative, make eye contact, smile and extend your hand.
- If the person is busy, wait a few steps back until they are available or go to another booth first.

**Keep the Conversation Going**
- Begin by mentioning that you already know a bit about the business/school.
- Ask thoughtful questions to further your understanding.
- Don’t ask broad general questions like “tell me a bit about your_____.” Broad questions put the burden on the recruiter and leave them frustrated.
- Be aware of your surroundings. If there is a long line of students waiting, do not take up all of their time.

**After the Fair**
- Review what you found out about the companies as soon as you can.
- Send a thank you to the companies you found especially interesting.