

# JA Inspire™: Self-Guided Curriculum

## Overview for Educators

*JA Inspire* is both a class and event-based Junior Achievement learning experience that helps launch students into their futures. This student self-guided classroom curriculum culminates with a *JA Inspire* event that may be completed virtually or in-person.

The new self-guided curriculum provides students a more independent learning experience as compared to the traditional classroom curriculum. Students will engage in a series of interactive screencasts and fillable PDF activities. Educators introduce the curriculum assignments to students and provide opportunities for student reflection and discussion. The frequency of student-teacher engagement is flexible. Implementation can be accomplished whether students are in a remote, face-to-face, or hybrid learning environment.

### Getting Started

1. Educators, volunteers, and students will use the JA Connect learning platform to access the self-guided curriculum materials.
  - a. Go to <https://learn.ja.org> (Recommended web browsers are Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari).
  - b. Select the green Educators/Students/Volunteers button.
  - c. Enter in your email address as your username, and password.
    - i. Note: JA staff or educators should have enrolled students in advance.
    - ii. For students using the generic JA email addresses, the password is always set to Password123!
    - iii. For students using a working email address: If they forgot or cannot locate their password, they should select the green Forgot Password link to reset their password.
  - d. On the JA Connect home page, navigate to My JA Courses – JA Inspire Self-Guided. Select the class name.
  - e. View each session’s materials by expanding each section in the left-hand navigation.
2. Ensure that students have downloaded and/or printed the Student Activity Pages needed for each session. Let students know if you want them to complete digitally or print and write in.
3. Each session contains the following components:
  - **Onscreen Presentation:** Interactive, instructional content delivered through JA Connect, designed for the student to view on-screen at their own pace. The onscreen presentations provide visual representations of concepts or processes and have an interactive design to pace content delivery and increase engagement. All have audio support. They are approximately 5-10 minutes each and require Internet access.
    - *Notes: Allow the audio to finish on screen before completing the activity or moving to the next screen*

- *Closed captioning is available*
  - *Select the Prev/Next buttons to navigate between screens*
  - **Student Activity Page:** Digital note-taking guides and activities for students to use with each session's onscreen presentations and volunteer videos. Student Activity pages may be downloaded and shared with students as **fillable documents**; they may be submitted to the teacher for assessment purposes.
    - *Notes: Make sure that users are not in preview or browse mode within the Internet browser; the file must be downloaded.*
    - *To view and type in responses, use Adobe Acrobat Reader. If Adobe Reader is unavailable, use one of the following extensions:*
      - *Acrobat for Mac: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/adobe-acrobat-reader-for-pdf/id469337564>*
      - *Chromebook: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/open-in-pdf-reader/cehiomcamjpnfmemkmpjadaclohoibgo?hl=en>*
      - *Kami for Chromebook: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/kami-extension-pdf-and-do/ecnphlgnajanjnkcmbpancdjoidceilk?hl=en>*
    - *Once users fill in the PDF file, save as, then re-upload the completed file to the teacher/school centralized platform.*
    - *Although student activity pages can be printed, digital access is recommended.*
    - *Use the pages as a tool to follow up with students, ask discussion or review questions.*
4. Suggested educator – student meetings: The length and frequency of educator-student meetings before, during, and after the *JA Inspire* self-guided curriculum and virtual simulation experience is determined by the educator. However, JA strongly recommends multiple opportunities for supporting student learning.
- Orientation:
    - i. Educator introduces the *JA Inspire* program and engages students in conversation about the topics of understanding their interests, skills and values to their future career.
    - ii. Educator screenshares to demonstrate how to access the self-guided curriculum, how to navigate, and the assigned timeline for completion.
    - iii. Educator provides direction to students about student activity pages – are they required or optional? Will or where or how they be submitted for a grade? Should student compile them for their own future use?
    - iv. Educator may encourage or assign an online career interest inventory for student completion. JA recommends [career.ja.org](https://www.career.ja.org). Students may take the inventory as a guest or register to save their responses.
  - Mid-course / post-session educator – student meetings:
    - i. Educator and students meet following each self-guided lesson and completion of the student activity handout OR mid-course, following the completion of three self-guided lessons and completion of student activity handouts.
    - ii. Class review and discussion of vocabulary and concepts presented. This session should provide opportunity for student questions about the content as well as time for educator to assess student understanding and engagement.
  - Post self-guided course educator-student meeting:

- i. Educator and students meet following the completion of all self-guided lessons to review key vocabulary and concepts. Student questions are answered.
- ii. Educator introduces the *JA Inspire* Virtual simulation experience, including a demonstration of how and where to access it.
- iii. A timeline for completion of the virtual simulation is provided to the students.
- Post virtual simulation educator-student meeting:
  - i. This session provides opportunity for a debrief of the *JA Inspire* experience.

## Self-Guided Curriculum Outline

<b>Session One: Find Your Path</b>	
Students understand the importance of career planning and assess their personal interests in the context of career paths	
<b>1.1 Why Plan for a Career? Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Determine the importance of career planning. Students complete a career interest inventory. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>1.2 Identifying Your Key Skills, Values, and Interests Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Assess your personal interests in the context of career paths. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>1.3 Career Interest Inventory Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Rate your interests, abilities, and values. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in and/or complete online at <a href="https://career.ja.org">https://career.ja.org</a>
<b>Session Two: Explore Your Options</b>	
Students learn to recognize career clusters that match their skills and interests and identify industries and jobs that offer potential opportunities.	
<b>2.1 A Deep Dive into Career Clusters Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Learn about career clusters and different career paths. Explore career clusters and career paths in the context of your interest inventory results. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>2.2 Exploring Careers Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Explore career clusters and career paths. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in
<b>2.3 Where Do You Fit Into Each Career Cluster? Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Identify industries and jobs that offer opportunities. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>2.4 Where Do You Fit? Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Identify industries and jobs that offer opportunities. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in

<b>Session Three: Present Yourself</b>	
Students assess their soft skills and identify any areas needing improvement. They also create an elevator pitch to help communicate their areas of interest.	
<b>3.1 Developing Your Soft Skills Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Assess soft skills and identify need for improvement. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>3.2 Soft Skills Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Assess soft skills and identify need for improvement. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in
<b>3.3 Elevator Pitch Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Create an elevator pitch. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>3.4 Elevator Pitch Guide Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Create an elevator pitch. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in
<b>Session Four: What to Expect at the JA Inspire Day</b>	
Students set JA Inspire day goals related to personal skills and interests and identify relevant companies they want to explore at the event.	
<b>4.1 Preparing for JA Inspire Day: Part 1 Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Set expectations for JA Inspire Day and examine different scenarios. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>4.2 Preparing for JA Inspire Day: Part 2 Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Set JA Inspire Day goals related to personal skills and interests. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>4.3 Goal Setting Student Activity Page</b>	Objectives: Set expectations for JA Inspire Day. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in
<b>Session Five: Build Your Network</b>	
Students understand the importance and essentials of networking, identify relevant companies at the JA Inspire event, and prepare and practice interview questions for businesspeople in their fields of interest.	
<b>5.1 What is Networking? Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Understand the elements and importance of networking. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>5.2 Preparing to Network at JA Inspire Onscreen Presentation</b>	Objective: Identify relevant companies at the event. Prepare and practice interview questions for businesspeople in fields of interest. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation
<b>5.3 Exhibitor Interview Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Identify relevant companies at the event. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in
<b>5.4 Ask The Right Questions Student Activity Page</b>	Objective: Prepare and practice interview questions for businesspeople in fields of interest. Instructions: Download the PDFs to type in your responses or print and write in
<b>JA Inspire Event</b>	Details on when and how to access the event will be provided by your local JA Area staff.

**Session Six: Make a Plan**

Following the JA Inspire event, students evaluate personal goals and priorities to identify next steps, including exploration of high school coursework, extracurricular activities and networking.

<p><b>6.1 Identifying Next Steps Onscreen Presentation</b></p>	<p>Objective: Evaluate personal goals and priorities to identify next steps based on the JA Inspire experience. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation</p>
<p><b>6.2 Personal Reflection: My Plan Student Activity Page</b></p>	<p>Objective: Evaluate personal goals and priorities to identify next steps based on the JA Inspire experience. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in</p>
<p><b>6.3 Expressing Gratitude Onscreen Presentation</b></p>	<p>Objective: Identify next steps, including exploration of high school coursework, extracurricular activities, and networking. Instructions: Select play to view the interactive presentation</p>
<p><b>6.4 Personal Reflection: Event Summary Student Activity Page</b></p>	<p>Objective: Evaluate personal goals and priorities to identify next steps based on the JA Inspire experience. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in</p>
<p><b>6.5 Thank You Note Student Activity Page</b></p>	<p>Objective: Write a note thanking a contact met during the JA Inspire Day. Instructions: Download the PDF to type in your responses or print and write in</p>