



Manufacturing Month: Activity Guide for Employers

The Manufacturers Association (MACNY) and Partners for Education & Business (PEB) are excited that you are considering hosting students for a site visit. Please see below for some tips in doing an activity as part of students' experience at your facility.

- **Why do a hands-on activity?**
 - **Engagement provides learning.** Most people learn best by doing, rather than just seeing.
 - **Create confidence.** Experience helps students to better envision themselves in manufacturing. They will then be more likely to have the interest and confidence to pursue these careers. It is especially important for students who are not often seen in industry, such as women and people of color.
 - **Manufacturing is inherently hands-on!** Activities provide students with a tactile experience.
 - **It becomes memorable.** Students will have more to share with their families and friends.
- **Things to consider:**
 - **Amount of time.** This will determine the appropriate activity. Options could include:
 - One group on a tour while another does an activity.
 - All students on a tour, followed by an activity.
 - **Space.** For an activity, it is best to have a quieter area so students can hear directions.
 - **Format.** The amount of time and space will guide in what the best format might be, such as pairs, small groups, or having all students do something at the same time.
 - **Group size.** Small groups or pairs of students provide an opportunity for engagement, especially for quieter individuals.
 - **Staff availability.** If you have staff who are eager to get involved and you have the capacity, a professional can be paired with a small group of students during the activity. Another idea is to have a few employees “float” around to answer any questions.
 - **Planning is key!** Make sure your team is briefed and instructed on what the activity involves.
 - **Keep it simple.** The simpler, the better – especially if you have a lot of people involved.
 - **We are here to help!** PEB is experienced in doing activities with students, and we want to provide any support possible for an impactful experience.
- **Examples of a hands-on activity:**
- **Spaghetti and Marshmallow Challenge:** Students work together to try and build the largest free standing tower using spaghetti and marshmallows.
- **Quality Control Relay:** Students experience the importance of quality control. They design identical paper shapes or simple products. They determine if the products are consistent and accurate with each other.
- **Team Scavenger Hunt:** Manufacturing company provides a list of items for the students to look for while on the tour. During the tour they can either point them out or cross off the items on their sheet provided.
- **Product Assembly Challenge:** Students have 10-15 minutes to assemble a simple product or complete a short building challenge.
- **Repurposing Trash Challenge:** Manufacturing companies have lots of recyclable materials, why not get some use out of it? Students use recyclable or reusable materials to design or build something.