PREPARATION ASSIGNMENT FOR ENGINEERING AMBASSADORS

**NOTE:** **It is important that each student bring a laptop to the training.  If you do not have a laptop, please ask your advisor if he or she can arrange for you to borrow one from your school.  The laptop should have PowerPoint.  Internet access will be available at the workshop.**

**Overview**  
During your upcoming Ambassador training, you will be working with an assigned partner from your school.  Your task throughout the training is to create a 10-15 minute presentation to give in an elementary, middle or high school class.  This presentation should highlight an interesting engineering, technological, or innovative application and briefly show how this application relates to engineering. The goal of this presentation is to show the audience (K-12 students) what engineering is and get them excited about engineering. Each team will give their formal presentation during the “Presentation Showcase” on Sunday morning.  
  
The focus of the workshop will be the development of the presentation.  However, when you visit a classroom, you should try to combine your presentation with a hands-on activity.  You will not need to do the hands-on activity at the workshop, but you should have a relevant activity in mind and briefly explain the activity to the workshop audience. For your first presentation, it might be easier to think of an activity first, then “work backwards” to develop a presentation centered on it.

**Action Items Before the Workshop**  
Creating a polished and exciting presentation in such a short period of time will definitely be a challenge.  To help ensure you are successful, please complete the following steps before coming to the workshop.  
  
**1.    Read pages 1 - 12 of the**[**Executive Summary from *Changing the Conversation***](http://www.nap.edu/read/12187/chapter/2)  
*Changing the Conversation* is a study done by the National Academy of Engineering and is a tool for improving the public image of engineering and outreach efforts related to engineering. The findings in this study are the types of messages that you should consider emphasizing in your presentations. When selecting the topic and content for your presentation, please be sure to consider and enact the themes discussed in *Changing the Conversation*.  Framing these talks with these messages is one of the distinguishing factors of Engineering Ambassadors Network programs.  
  
**2.    Determine a topic for your presentation and submit by the following deadlines:  
  
EA Regional Workshop @ Nebraska: Friday, August 25**  
  
One of the most important (and difficult) parts of this process is choosing a topic.  Begin immediately to determine two possible topic ideas with your partner, and submit these topics for feedback from the workshop instructors.  You can do this by filling out the [Topic Proposal form](http://www.engineeringambassadors.com/uploads/2/9/0/6/29067527/topic_proposal_form_blank.docx) and posting the document to the ﻿[“Topic Proposal” folder labeled by  University in Google Drive﻿.](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1PfC8HBJeRoTURud3p3M3k4RHM)   
  
Not sure who your partner is? [See the team assignments list here.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s0UvtYi_dPnANWi-MRCaYNqIKjK5JYtuPJEt3otTqcE/edit#gid=0)   
  
Having trouble coming up with a topic? Take a look at some [topic ideas and topic proposal examples](http://www.engineeringambassadors.com/sample-topics.html). You can also see some [example outreach presentations here](http://www.engineeringambassadors.com/for-engineering-ambassadors.html). For Nebraska EA’s, our presentations are located [here](http://engineering.unl.edu/engineering-clubs/engineering-ambassador-what-expect/#topics). Please choose a topic that is different from existing presentations. Additional ideas from UNL can be found [here](https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AJuvPUrpNQM9irY&id=C2863B9EC1907A9D%214922&cid=C2863B9EC1907A9D) in “Presentation Ideas”.  
  
**3.    Critical thinking about slide design and brainstorming visual evidence**  
One key focus of our workshop will be the effective design of presentation slides for communicating science in an engaging and clear manner.  We will utilize the Assertion-Evidence slide design for your Ambassador presentations.  We will devote formal lecture time on the first day of the workshop to teaching this method, but we suggest you download the Assertion Evidence Template and Tutorial to your laptop:  
  
[﻿﻿Assertion-Evidence Template for Ambassadors﻿﻿](http://www.assertion-evidence.com/templates.html)  
  
  
[Watch a short introductory video to the Assertion-Evidence approach to presentations here](https://vimeo.com/191129539).  
  
Collect interesting visual evidence (images, diagrams, videos, etc.) related to your topic that could be used to explain your ideas in your presentation.  Having some visuals available will prepare you to develop your presentation at the workshop.