



DRIVING QUESTION

How can we demonstrate Excel's impact across different careers and show how it prepares us for success in the workplace?

PROJECT SUMMARY

In this project, high school students will work in groups to explore how Microsoft Excel is used across four different careers. Through sustained inquiry, students will research, interview professionals, and create a professional PowerPoint presentation that demonstrates Excel's versatility in the workplace. This project blends technical skills with career exploration, preparing students for both academic and professional success.

REAL-WORLD CONTEXT

The real-world context of this project is that Excel is a tool that professionals across nearly every industry depend on daily. By researching four to six careers and interviewing people who actively use Excel, students connect classroom learning to actual workplace tasks like budgeting, scheduling, and data analysis. This helps them see how Excel skills directly support career readiness and future success.

PRODUCTS & AUDIENCE

The culminating product is a group PowerPoint presentation that shows how Excel is applied in four to six careers. Drawing from research and professional interviews, students will highlight Excel's history, importance, and specific career applications. The final slideshow will be delivered publicly, demonstrating Excel's real-world relevance across industries.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- "The fact that we had to interview a professional from the job field was very helpful to understand the specific career I was interested in."
- "The firing protocols were the most helpful. A group member wasn't really doing their part so we had to fire them."
- "I realized that success often requires more self-motivation and determination to find information independently."

NC PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE SKILLS GAINED

 **COLLABORATION**  **COMMUNICATION**  **LEARNER'S MINDSET**  **CRITICAL THINKING**
 **ADAPTABILITY**  **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

TEACHER REFLECTION

"This PBL project allowed students to make authentic connections between classroom learning and real-world applications of Excel across multiple careers. I was impressed by their creativity, collaboration, and ability to engage with industry professionals through interviews. The presentations reflected meaningful growth in communication and technical skills. In the future, I plan to include more structured checkpoints for the interview process to ensure every group gains maximum value from their professional interactions."