

LIVING LIBRARY

Community Partner Playbook

Panelists • Living Books • Community Conversations

Real Stories. Real People. Real Impact.

Welcome

Thank you for serving as a Living Library Community Partner.

Your conversations will help 8th-grade students explore community challenges, discover future possibilities, and gather primary research for their Capstone Projects.

The goal is simple: **share your experience, answer questions honestly, and help students make meaningful connections between their learning and the real world.**

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students participate in two connected experiences:

1 | Community Conversations

Students begin with a moderated panel focused on a community issue such as mental health, food insecurity, public safety, housing, education, transportation, entrepreneurship, or workforce development.

2 | Living Library Conversations

Students transition into small groups where they interview community partners, ask deeper questions, and gather information that may help shape their Capstone research.

YOUR ROLE

Community Conversations Panelist

Participate in a moderated discussion that helps students understand a real community challenge.

Be prepared to discuss:

- What challenge exists?
- Why does it matter?
- How are you or your organization helping?
- What progress has been made?
- What work remains?

Time Commitment: Approximately 30–45 minutes per session, including check-in and orientation.

What Works Best

Students connect with stories. Consider sharing a challenge you've faced, a lesson you've learned, someone who inspired you, or a moment that helped you understand why your work matters.

Living Book

Engage in conversation with approximately **6–8 students** at a time.

This is not a presentation. It is a conversation.

Students will interview you about your experiences, work, passions, challenges, leadership, and community impact while recording information for their Capstone research.

Time Commitment: Approximately 30–45 minutes per session, including check-in and orientation.

What Works Best

- Be authentic.
 - Encourage questions.
 - Ask students questions too.
 - Invite different perspectives.
 - Help quieter students participate.
 - Connect your experiences to community impact.
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WHAT STUDENTS MAY ASK

Community Impact

- What community problem are you helping solve?
- Why is this issue important?
- What progress have you seen?

Your Journey

- What inspired you?
- What challenges have you overcome?
- What motivates you?

Leadership & the Future

- What makes someone a good leader?
- What advice would you give someone my age?
- What skills should students begin developing now?
- How can young people begin making a difference?

There are no perfect answers. **Students value authenticity.**

THE STUDENT RESEARCH JOURNAL

Students will use a Living Library Research Journal throughout the experience to capture:

- Panel and interview notes
- Community challenges
- Questions and ideas
- Possible Capstone topics
- Personal reflections

Your conversation becomes part of their primary research.

PARTNER EXPECTATIONS

Please:

- Arrive on time and attend the brief orientation.
 - Remain for your assigned session.
 - Participate fully and encourage student questions.
 - Keep conversations respectful, inclusive, age-appropriate, and student-centered.
 - Avoid political endorsements or unrelated political discussions.
 - Notify organizers as soon as possible if an emergency prevents you from attending.
 - Wear business or business-casual attire.
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BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Review your event confirmation and confirm your attendance.

You are also welcome to bring something that helps tell your story, such as a photo, book, uniform, award, product, prototype, small tool, or organizational material.

Optional, not required.

ONE LAST THING...

Students aren't expecting a polished speech.

They're hoping to meet a real person willing to share a real story.

A conversation that feels ordinary to you may become the moment that helps a student see their community, their possibilities, or themselves differently.

Thank you for investing in Hampton's students.

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