Guest Speakers on Science Careers

Teaching idea -- I teach anatomy and physiology honors, and have several guest speakers during the year. They speak about how they chose the career; what undergrad, grad, etc, education is needed; what certifications, boards, etc are required; what a typical day is like; what kinds of settings are available in this profession; typical salaries; opportunities beyond the daily work; what they like and don’t about the profession. Some teach part of "my" lesson as well - for instance, I have a wonderful cardiac rehab nurse who adds to her presentation information about cardiovascular disease, bringing models and simulations, speaking in general about interesting cases (because of HIPPA they are very general and often a combination or fictional but possible scenarios); the optometrist teaches about vision issues, explains the how and why of each, and addresses myths about vision and eye care. My students keep a journal - prior to the speaker they are to research the career and write a paragraph about what they discover, and also they are to have at least 3 good questions for the speaker. This keeps them from thinking that a "guest speaker" day means "day off"!! After the class, they have a couple of days to write a reflection about what they heard and learned, and comments about their interest, or lack of, in this career. They can also pose additional questions that I will forward to the speaker for further information. They keep these journal entries in a bound notebook so when they finish the class they have a reference booklet to refer to should they at some point in life want to "remember" about a profession; maybe they will discover they indeed do have an interest at a later time in their education.