

# Teacher Tool 358: What It's Like to Be a Dentist

## Program Guide

Study Guide for Point to Point 10: What It's Like to Be a Dentist

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**What It's Like to Be a Dentist**  
**Expert:** Audrey Greaves, Dentist

**Targeted Grade Levels:** Grades 6 through 12 would probably benefit the most.

**Availability:** Program requests must be made at least two weeks prior to your desired date. This program can be scheduled Wednesdays at 9 am and Mondays at 3:30 pm Central Time. Other times may be arranged with advance notice. When enrolling, please let us know three possible dates and times you'd like to schedule your interaction.

**Program Description:**

Students will learn what goes into preparing for dental school and the science classes, extra-curricular activities and hobbies that will benefit them if they are interested in the field. The student will also learn the wide variety of dental jobs that exist. Visual aids, like wax teeth and plastic teeth for practice drilling, will demonstrate how dentists learn before working on real people.

The program's conversation will be guided entirely by the topics you wish Dr. Audrey to address and the questions your students want answered. For example, if your students are elementary or middle school students who send topics and questions focusing on general dentistry questions then that will be the direction of your interaction; if your students are high school students wanting to focus on more specific aspects of setting up a practice or planning their AP and college courses, then that will be the direction of your interaction. Your topic preferences and advance questions are due to us no less than three days prior to your scheduled interaction.

**Program Objectives:**

Participants will:

1. learn the educational requirements to become a dentist
2. gain an understanding of qualities that make someone a good dentist
3. learn what they can be doing now to learn more about the field of dentistry

**Program Format:**

**Introduction:** Dr. Audrey Greaves will introduce herself, give a general biography and explain her educational background.

**Body of the program:**

- Education needed to be a dentist (classes you can take in high school and suggested undergraduate majors)
- Use models to explain the hand skills required, and how dental students practice and learn to drill and place fillings in dental school along with all other dental procedures
- Continuing education about the wide variety of things a dentist can learn about after completing dental school
- The different job opportunities of dentists, such as specialties, in the operating room, teaching, public health, private practice, ownership or associate-ship, head and neck cancer etc.
- The pros and cons of being a dentist
- How/why to select that field

**Conclusion:** The dentist will rap up with what her day looks like and why she does what she does.

**Cost and Payment:** \$80—Payment may be made via credit card or school district purchase order. Payment must be received prior to the scheduled program date.

**How To Connect for the Program:**

1. Via h.323 Videoconference
2. Via Skype, Zoom, or other similar desktop videoconference software

When you enroll for the program, please let us know your preferred method of connection.

**To Enroll:** Enrollment can occur in any of the following ways:

1. Go to our web page for the promo video for this program on our Educate.Today website at <https://educate.today/videos/7529> and click on the Sign Up button to send us your enrollment information.
2. E-mail us at [info@educate.today](mailto:info@educate.today) and put “Enrolling for Dentist Point to Point Program“ in the title of the e-mail. Please include your contact information in the e-mail and at least three proposed dates and times for your interaction.

We will respond to either method of enrollment to finalize a scheduled date for your interaction, make sure you have all program preparatory materials, and handle technical details for your method of connection including test calls.

**Cancellation Policy:** Once a date and time has been scheduled for your interaction, you can cancel or reschedule without penalty within 24 hours. After 24 hours and up to 7 days before your scheduled program, we’ll refund 50% of your original fee. Within 7 days of the scheduled date, we do not offer a refund. Should an uncontrollable emergency occur (i.e.: snow day, etc.), we will work with you to reschedule the program for a new date and time but should that prove impossible, we will refund 50% of your original fee. Should our program expert or other circumstance force a cancellation on our end from your original date, we will work with you to reschedule the program for a new date and time that works for you, or we will refund your purchase in full.

**Pre-Program Activities:**

1. **Measurement Activity:** Dentists frequently work in fractions of millimeter increments. Have your students look at a ruler to better understand how small that is and how exact dentist must be.
2. **Mirror Activity:** Dentists use mirrors to see inside a person’s mouth to help visualize the teeth. Students can try writing their names while looking in a mirror.

**3. Send Us Your Advance Questions for Your Interaction:**

Work with students in advance of their interaction to determine up to the ten (10) most important questions you’d like to ask Dr. Greaves during your program. To help them develop their questions, have students read Ms. Tristan’s biography and explore the web-based resources included in the Supplemental Resources section later in this document. Send these questions to us by completing the Radio/TV Host Worksheet document sent to you with preparatory materials for this program and also available on our Educate.Today website at <https://educate.today/videos/4263>. E-mail it to us at [info@educate.today](mailto:info@educate.today) no less than three days prior to your scheduled interaction.

Additional spontaneous questions will be encouraged during the program, but these questions will be used to organize the conversation.

### **Post-Program Activity Suggestions:**

**1. Send a Thank You or Insight**—Have students write a letter to Dr. Greaves detailing insight the student gained from hearing her story, an appreciation for her participation, and/or another focus area of their choice. E-mail the letter to us at [info@educate.today](mailto:info@educate.today) or mail the letter to us at Educate.Today@HEC-TV 3221 McKelvey Rd #106, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

**2. Interview a Local Dentist**—Record an interview with a local dentist about their career and job opportunities in your area. As part of our mission, Educate.Today is dedicated to publishing student work for other students to learn from. If you'd like to submit a student video interview for possible publication, e-mail us at [info@educate.today](mailto:info@educate.today) and put "Publish Student Work" in the title line. We'll respond with next steps for possible publication.

### **Vocabulary:**

**Basic Cleaning** - routine cleaning for a normal amount of plaque build-up

**Bicuspid** - a premolar tooth; a tooth with two cusps

**Bilateral** - occurring on, or pertaining to, both right and left sides

**Cavity** - decay in tooth caused by caries; also referred to as carious lesion

**Cusp** - the pointed portion of the tooth

**Dental Specialist** - a dentist who has received postgraduate training in one of the recognized dental specialties.

**DDS** - Doctor of Dental Surgery

**DMD** - Doctor of Dental Medicine

**Enamel** - hard calcified tissue covering dentin of the crown of tooth

**Endodontist** - a dental specialist who limits his/her practice to treating disease and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular conditions

**Extraction** - the process or act of removing a tooth or tooth parts

**Filling** - A lay term used for the restoring of lost tooth structure by using materials such as metal, alloy, plastic or porcelain

**Fixed Appliances** - orthodontic devices, commonly known as braces, that are bonded to the teeth to produce different tooth movements to help reposition teeth for orthodontic therapy

**Molar** - teeth posterior to the premolars (bicuspids) on either side of the jaw; grinding teeth, having large crowns and broad chewing surfaces

**Orthodontist** - a dental specialist whose practice is limited to the interception and treatment of malocclusion of the teeth and their surrounding structures

### **Featured National Standards:**

#### **1. Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards**

#### **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

#### **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

### **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

### **2. American School Counselor Association National Standards for Students**

American School Counselor Association (2004). ASCA National Standards for Students. A Alexandria, VA: Author.

#### **In the area of Career Development:**

**Standard A:** Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.

**Standard B:** Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.