



**Project IT Girl – Spring 2009 Internship  
Milestone 1 – Recognize the Problem  
Lesson 1 “First Day on the Job”**

## **Lesson 1: First Day on the Job**

### **OVERVIEW**

1. Students will understand internship goals and project focus.
2. Students will understand Client Company’s project needs.
3. Students will determine initial research questions.

### **END OF DAY DELIVERABLES**

- Create a project plan
- Form research groups

### **PREPARATION**

- Review all supplemental materials prior to meeting.
- Visit the Wiki webpage ([www.itgirl09.wikispot.org](http://www.itgirl09.wikispot.org) username: itgirl, password: girlstart09)
- Visit the Leader Resource page (<http://www.girlstart.org/itgirl/2009/leaders/index.html> username: itgirlleader, password: girlstart09)

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Activity #1 Semester Overview & Project Focus**

##### **Suggested Time: 15 minutes**

Welcome to the final semester of IT Girl! For our last project, IT Girls will form consulting companies based on meeting location (South Austin & Girlstart). These companies will each take on a client company (C3 Presents in South Austin, Motorola at Girlstart) and complete a real life company project.

This semester IT Girls will:

- Meet with business and community leaders
- Learn to communicate and work effectively in teams
- Create criteria and boundaries for their project
- Tour companies and other relevant sites
- Research real world topics
- Complete a Final Report
- Present their work to the public
- Get paid for their hard work

As part of the overview, go over the **attendance policy** and **calendar** with the participants. If there are questions that you cannot answer, forward them in an email to Zakiyyah ([Zakiyyah@girlstart.org](mailto:Zakiyyah@girlstart.org)).

Once the housekeeping items are presented, go over the project focus handout with the girls. This should be familiar to those girls who attended the company meetings on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The key concept for you to get across is that, regardless of whether you meet on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, if you meet in South Austin you will be working on one consulting company for C3 Presents, and if you meet at Girlstart you will be working on one consulting company for



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Motorola. The girls will use Wiki pages to communicate with their colleagues who meet on a different day. There are also monthly Saturday meetings designed so that the entire company will have opportunities to meet face to face.

## **Activity # 2 Prior Knowledge Quiz**

### **Suggested Time: 25 minutes**

Chances are, most the girls probably have some basic knowledge or expertise on some aspects of their company’s project. For example, if they download music or videos from the internet, the girls in South Austin have a user experience that will be invaluable to their C3 project. Similarly, the girls in North Austin who use wireless networks and devices have some working knowledge of the Motorola project proposal.

#### Quiz Directions:

- Have the girls split up into brainstorming groups of 3-4 people.
- Ask the groups the one questions at a time from the Prior Knowledge Quiz supplement.
- Give the groups roughly 2-3 minutes to answer a single question.
- Ask each group to report out to the group for each question.
- The Company Supervisors will also take notes. Please forward a copy of your notes to Zakiyyah ([Zakiyyah@girlstart.org](mailto:Zakiyyah@girlstart.org)).

The purpose of this activity is show that the students actually know quite a bit about their projects already! In fact, their responses may provide direction for future research.

## **Activity #3 Brainstorm Research Questions**

### **Suggested Time: 30 minutes**

Now that their brains are warm from the last activity, the girls will now brainstorm research questions. Company Supervisors may have to get this conversation going by coming up with a few sample questions. Here are some examples –

#### C3 Presents project:

- Are there similar web-based retailers that sell original content out there?
- What does C3 do with all this footage now?
- Are people willing to pay for live footage they might be able to find on You Tube?

#### Motorola project:

- What types of wireless products does Motorola make?
- How are wireless networks used by cities?
- Is there any research that supports the notion that wireless networks have less impact on the environment?

The large group should come up with 2-5 questions to research over the next meetings. Ideas should be recorded on a white board or on a giant Post-it to be used for the next activity.

## **Activity #4 Form Research Groups**

### **Suggested Time: 15 minutes**

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After brainstorming research questions, split the girls up into research groups based on the topic that interests them the most. At this time please remind the girls that they are part of a larger company (that meets over two days during the week) and that this initial research group is by no means the only group of people they will be working with over the course of the semester. Depending on your group, you may find clever ways of splitting them up – for example, you could give each student one sticker and ask them to put their stick next to the question that interests them the most. If you use this option be sure to limit the number of people who can sign up for each question.

Once the groups are determined, they can begin researching if there is time. If not, move on to the following activity.

**Activity #5 Update Wiki Page  
Suggested Time: 10 minutes**

Each week the girls are responsible for updating their Wiki page. The Wiki spot is designed to help the girls manage their project throughout the semester. This journal will record the day's activity and the plan for the following week. Refer to the Wiki Instructional handout for further instructions.

**SUPPLEMENT MATERIALS**

- Attendance Policy handout
- Project Focus handout
- Wiki Instructions handout
- Prior Knowledge Quiz

SAMPLE