ROLE PLAY SCRIPTS FOR STUDENTS K-5

A great way to engage with students is through interactive activities that excite their imagination. In the scripted role-playing activities below, students will embody different aerospace careers and interact with people who work with them.

Each script will include three or four job roles, plus a narrator. The scripts also have guidance to help the OR to facilitate the activity. Three sample scripts are listed below. The scripts can be modified as needed, depending on the audience and OR experience.

Note: The scripts for K-5 purposefully use simple language rather than official terminology to make it easier for younger children to read and understand.

GUIDANCE FOR WORKING WITH THE SCRIPTS

ORs should keep the ages of the children in the group in mind when choosing a script. Younger students may have difficulty reading, so if the group is made up of children of mixed ages the OR should look for opportunities to incorporate non-speaking roles for the younger children who want to be involved but cannot read comfortably. Consider using simple character name tags for students who are assigned a role.

If the OR has the resources and the desire, props and costume pieces can make the role-play even more fun. Pieces like pilot hats, headsets, seatbelts, and toolboxes—or even just the job role written on a piece of cardboard and glued to a popsicle stick for them to carry— go a long way towards helping the group remember who is playing what role. There is room for creativity and playfulness in this activity for the students and the OR.

ORs can use the Aerospace Career Wheel to assign roles for the scripts. Students can spin the wheel and be given the career character associated with the job they land on. Click here to access the Career Wheel.



Figure 1: Aerospace Career Wheel

SCRIPT #1 – WITH PILOT, FLIGHT ATTENDANT, AND ATC

Roles: **(1) NARRATOR, (2) PILOT, (3) FLIGHT ATTENDANT, and (4) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER**

OR Guidance: *If the group of children is of mixed ages and younger children want to be involved but cannot read well enough to play a speaking role, cast those children as silent passengers on the plane or as additional flight attendants who can stand next to the speaking flight attendant. If the OR has access to props, give the extra flight attendants seatbelts to demonstrate with, or provide the passengers with travel neck pillows. Additional children can play ATCs with headsets, joysticks, etc.*

NARRATOR: The plane is taking off soon. The flight crew is working hard to make sure things happen on time.

PILOT: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Hello, everyone, this is your captain speaking. It looks like we will have a smooth ride today. The weather is clear. The trip will last about three hours. Please listen to your flight attendants now. They will go over safety rules, and then we will get going.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT: *(speaking to the class of "passengers")* Hi! I'm one of your flight attendants and I'm going to go over some rules to make sure everyone has a safe flight. First, please make sure you wear your seat belt.

NARRATOR: Not everyone working on the flight is on the plane. The Air Traffic Controllers are in the control tower, using special equipment to make sure all of the planes are where they are supposed to be.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Hello, Captain. Are you ready to go?

PILOT: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Yes, we are.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Okay, you can go ahead and go to the runway.

PILOT: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Thank you. *(The PILOT pretends to steer the plane to the runway.)*

FLIGHT ATTENDANT: *(still speaking to the passengers)* When the seat belt sign lights up, you must fasten your seat belt. Insert the metal fittings one into the other and tighten by pulling on the loose end of the strap. To release your seat belt, lift the upper portion of the buckle. We suggest that you keep your seat belt fastened throughout the flight, as the ride may get bumpy. (*They demonstrate putting a seatbelt on.)*

PILOT: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Okay, we are at the runway. Let me know when we can take off.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Just one moment, there are a few other planes landing before you.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT: *(still speaking to the passengers)* If you need anything, please push the button above your head and one of us will come to you. We will bring drinks around for everyone after the plane takes off.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Okay, Captain, you're cleared for takeoff.

PILOT: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Thank you.

NARRATOR: After the Air Traffic Controller has told the pilot they can take off; the plane is ready to start its trip.

PILOT: *(speaking into a microphone or headset)* Okay, everyone, here we go. Sit back and relax and thank you for flying with us today.

SCRIPT #2 – WITH AIRPORT MANAGER, SECURITY OFFICER, AND MECHANIC

Roles: **(1) NARRATOR, (2) AIRPORT MANAGER, (3) ELECTRICIAN, (4), SECURITY OFFICER, and (5) MECHANIC**

OR Guidance: *If the group of children is of mixed ages and younger children want to be involved but cannot read well enough to play a speaking role, cast those children as geese sitting on the runway and additional security guards attempting to chase them off.*

NARRATOR: Airports are busy places, and Airport Managers are busy people. They are in charge of making sure everything at the airport runs smoothly.

AIRPORT MANAGER: Hi, are you here to fix the electricity in Terminal D?

ELECTRICIAN: I sure am. They told me there was a power outlet that had sparks coming out of it before they turned the electricity off.

AIRPORT MANAGER: That's right. It's a real problem. None of the computers work with the electricity turned off, so we can't use any of the gates until it is fixed.

ELECTRICIAN: I will get it fixed as fast as I can, but it might take a while to figure out exactly what the problem is. I don't want to turn the electricity back on until I'm sure it's safe.

AIRPORT MANAGER: Yes, of course. I hope you can fix it quickly, though!

ELECTRICIAN: Me too!

NARRATOR: An Airport Manager's job isn't always just dealing with people and computers. Sometimes, they have some really strange problems come up.

SECURITY OFFICER: We have a problem over on Runway Zero Four.

AIRPORT MANAGER: A security problem? What is it?

SECURITY OFFICER: There's a whole flock of geese just sitting in the middle of the runway! We keep trying to get them to move, but every time we get it cleared they just come right back. We can't use that runway at all.

AIRPORT MANAGER: Okay, I'll call Animal Control and have them send someone out to move them safely.

SECURITY OFFICER: *(to the audience)* You know, normally the problems Security Officers deal with are with people, not animals. People try to bring things into the airport that they aren't allowed to, or sometimes people try to steal things. Geese on the runway is a lot funnier than that, but it is a big problem.

NARRATOR: If a runway has to be shut down, that means all the planes that were supposed to use that runway have to wait or use other runways. But every runway is on a specific schedule, which makes it hard to move planes around without making some flights run late.

AIRPORT MANAGER: First Terminal D has no electricity, and now Runway Zero Four is shut down. Things are not going smoothly today.

MECHANIC: I have more bad news for you.

AIRPORT MANAGER: Oh no. It's never good when the Mechanic has bad news.

MECHANIC: One of the doors on Flight 67 isn't closing properly so the plane can't take off until I fix it.

AIRPORT MANAGER: How long will that take?

MECHANIC: I don't know. I'm going to look at it now. I hope I can fix it soon so the flight isn't delayed too much. I'll let you know when I'm done.

NARRATOR: Being an Airport Manager is a busy job. But if you like to work with people, like to solve problems, and are good at keeping things organized, then it might be just the job for you!

SCRIPT #3 – WITH ASI, MECHANIC, PILOT, AND FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Roles: **(1) NARRATOR, (2) ASI, (3) MECHANIC, (4) PILOT, and (5) FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

> ***OR Guidance:*** *If the group of children is of mixed ages and younger children want to be involved but cannot read well enough to play a speaking role, cast those children as passengers waiting to board the plane or as secondary flight attendants.*

NARRATOR: The plane has just landed and the passengers have gotten off. Before the next flight, the Aircraft Safety Inspector and the Mechanic have to make sure the plane is still working properly and fix any problems it may have.

PILOT: Hi, guys. How's it looking? Am I going to be okay to take off on time?

AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTOR: Well, I sure hope so. But there's a problem with some of the landing gear indicator lights. I've called a Mechanic to come and take a look at it.

MECHANIC: I'm here. What seems to be the problem?

AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTOR: One of the landing gear indicator lights is not lighting up.

MECHANIC: Let's look and see what's going on.

NARRATOR: The Aircraft Safety Inspector and the Mechanic often have to work together to make sure the plane is safe to fly.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT: While you're working on fixing it, is it okay if we go on and start getting things ready for the next group of passengers?

MECHANIC: Sure, I don't think that would be a problem.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT: Good luck fixing the landing gear light.

NARRATOR: It's the Aircraft Safety Inspector's job to check and make sure the plane is working the way it's supposed to. It is the Mechanic's job to fix anything that's broken.

MECHANIC: All right, I think it's fixed. Want to check it?

AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTOR: I sure do. That's my job, after all.

PILOT: How does it look?

AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTOR: Looks good to me! (To MECHANIC:) You did a great job.

PILOT: (To MECHANIC:) Thanks for fixing it so fast! We won't be late boarding the passengers or anything.

MECHANIC: Well, that's my job—to fix the planes, and do it fast.

AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTOR: Okay, well, if we're all done here, I have another plane to inspect. (To MECHANIC:) You might be getting another call from me if that one has something wrong with it too!

MECHANIC: You know where to find me if it does.

AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTOR: (To PILOT:) Have a safe flight!

PILOT: Thank you both again, I appreciate your help.