**Job Forum Thank You Letter to Panelists**

Date
Job Forum Panelists:

Thank you so much for coming to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_High School and sharing your advice and expertise. Hopefully you could tell by the expressions on our students' faces that they were absolutely enthralled. Each one of you inspired the kids in a different and unique way. You will probably never know the depth of your influence. I'd like to give you an idea, though, so at the risk of epitomizing your old English teachers, I'll recount for you a portion of a discussion that the class had the day following the Forum. We were dissecting the following quote from J. D. Salinger's, A Catcher in the Rye: "You know what Id like to be? ì I said, "You know that song, 'If a body catch a body comin' through the rye?' It's a poem by Robert Burns ... Anyway, I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye and all. Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around --nobody big, I mean---except me. And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff --I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I'd do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be. I know it's crazy.

After reading and guessing at the meaning of this quote, one student raised his hand and said, "It's gonna sound funny, but weren't the job forum people sort of like Catchers? We waited, and another student's hand went up. "Yeah. Like we're the kids and the future is the big scary cliff that we don't even really know we're on the edge of..." Her voice faded, and student #3 took over. "And so they're trying to say that we need to walk carefully NOW so that we don't fall off later." "Yeah, yeah!" was the collective reply.

I was impressed. They show progress every day. Please enjoy the students' letters (Unedited, by the way. The "middle man" was eliminated by majority vote.).

Thank you again for your time and inspiration. I hope that you'll consider participating in the Forum next year. We would love to have you visit again.

Very truly yours,

Mentor Coordinator