

SAMPLE EMAIL TO SCIENTIST

Dr. xxx:

I am writing to you about a popular program we instituted over a year ago: the Oceanside Library Science Cafe. I am hoping you (or anyone in your department) will agree to be a speaker at our Cafe.

The Oceanside Library is currently the only Science Cafe in any public library in New York State. Each month we feature a scientist who speaks in an informal setting (over coffee and really good cookies) on a current topic. Presentations are approx. 10 minutes, with no PowerPoint, video, etc. The program runs about an hour. We run it along the lines of the Nova-sponsored site : sciencecafes.org. I moderate the discussion.

We can craft a topic together. Our topics have included: a professor of computer ethics on "Is Privacy Dead in the Internet Age?"; a cancer researcher on : "Is the Cure for Cancer in Our Reach"; a physicist/astronomer on "Is the Inflation Theory Shrinking"; an engineering professor on "Should STEM Become STEAM" (about adding art to science education); "Can America Ever Be Safe From Global Viruses?" by the head of medicine from Winthrop University; "Beyond Jurassic Park" by a paleontologist; the FDA drug approval process by a post-doctoral researcher from the Cold Spring Harbor Lab and many more.

What has been amazing is that the conversations will move afar from the topic at times--but the discourse has been lively, respectful and inquisitive. I could not be happier with the way it is working out.

We publicize the event well-- mailings to every household in our district; 8,000 emails; flyers, press listings and releases; the 2nd largest Facebook page of any library on Long Island, Twitter, Instagram, Meetup, etc. Our audiences have ranged from 20-73 thus far.

I am currently booking Jan-March (but any month is open for scheduling) and am flexible with the evening of the week we hold the program (7pm, usually a Wed. or Thurs).

The program is designed for adults, although some of the high school AP students have joined us.

Please let me know if you might be interested--

Many thanks!

Tony

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