

Informational Interviewing /Networking

Introductory Questions

- What is your current position, what department do you work in, and how did you get there?
- What is an important part of your identity that is meaningful to you and how does it relate to your career?
- What are your current interests? Books? TV Shows?
- What did networking look like early in your career ?

Background Questions

- Did you have a job or internship while in high school or during college?
 - What kind of jobs/internships? How did you get them?
- What was your first professional job and how did you get the position? Was it connected to your major?
- What was the most important skill or strength that helped you in your first job?
- How and why did you choose the college you attended?
 - Who or what was your inspiration for going to college or choosing your major?
 - Did you change your major in college?
- Are there other things in college that have been particularly relevant to your work? Like extracurricular activities or volunteer work or hobbies? Do you currently participate in any extracurricular activities?
- What do you enjoy most or least about your job?
- What did (do) you tell yourself when you had (have) difficult moments in your career ?
- What advice would you give someone interested in your field?
- What advice would you give to yourself if you could go back in time to high school?
- How did you get into the field/what keeps you in the job?
- At this point in your career what is most important to you? (salary, passions, benefits, stability, etc.)
- Aside from reading a website, how would you recommend someone get inside information about an organization or company culture?
- Do you have a side hustle?
- What was your first “career win” that made you confident you were in the right job/career?

Networking

- Can you name the people who provided you opportunities to get you started in your college journey or career? Think back to college or even opportunities in high school that you felt were important.
 - How did you find these people? How did you establish a strong connection? How did you maintain the connection over time?
 - Who do you wish you had as part of your network?
- What have you learned about the importance of networking? Did networking help your career ?
 - Is this different from how you felt when you started your career?

Closing Questions

- We appreciate your time, and wondered if there was anything else you wanted to share with us before we end our conversation for today.
- If you could leave us with one more tip about networking, what would it be?