

# ***ECF Sophomore Seminar Assignment: Interview three Faculty***

## **Introduction & Motivation:**

It is time to meet some faculty! For this assignment, you should ask for a meeting with at least three faculty members in your department. During your meeting, you should ask them about their research area, their experience with mentoring undergraduate research, and their availability. This process is your first step in finding a mentor for your ECF research project.

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**Genre:** Reflection on Interview

**Audience:** Yourself, primarily, and other ECF sophomores secondarily

**Purpose:** To internalize and analyze the information gained by talking with potential mentors

**Length:** 1 page, single spaced

## **Process:**

1. Identify three or more full-time, permanent faculty members in your chosen field. Secure a time and place for an informal interview.
2. Take good notes during your interview. In addition to your own questions, you should get the following information:
  - An overview of the type of research the faculty member is interested in
  - Past experience mentoring research, and whether or not they have mentored ECF students
  - Their expectations of their research students
  - Their availability in taking on new research students
3. Write a reflection on what you are taking away from the interviews, giving references to some specifics of the interviewee's answers. Your reflection can be a single essay, or organized by sections/questions, but the focus here is **not** a simple recounting or report of what they said, but rather a reflection on what you learned and how you might use it.

In particular, your reflection should address:

- \* Who did you interview?
- \* What did you learn about doing research in your field?
- \* What factors tell you that a faculty member is or is not a good match for you?
- \* Do you think you need to interview more faculty or do you have a possible match at this point?

## **Assessment Criteria:**

- Does the writing include reference to specifics, without being a transcript?
- Does the writing focus on how it affects the author's understanding of research or approach to finding a mentor?
- Does the statement meet the length requirement and demonstrate polished prose?