

# **“Get to Know Your Mentor Meeting”**

## **Possible Questions: A Primer and Guide.**

The purpose of the interview, January 10, is to understand the process and steps it took your mentors to get to their places in their current work. You need to ask questions that help your mentors explain how such things as their thought process, course decisions, education, volunteering, and previous job choices helped them on their career or job journey.

**PLEASE DO NOT JUST GIVE YOUR MENTOR ALL THESE QUESTIONS AND ASK THEM TO ANSWER THEM OVER EMAIL.**

You may ask some or all of the following questions in your interview. Feel free to write or ask some of your own, as well.

**Use the interview time to gain insight into your mentor's career path and to establish a positive connection with your mentor. Having a good conversation is important. Be ready to answer questions and share your thoughts and hopes for the mentorship with your mentor, as well.**

Before you get into the questions, make sure your mentors know who you are, what your main hopes for the mentorship time are, and that you are thankful for their willingness to help. Also, ask them to tell you about themselves.

Remember to enjoy the time. Remember to write some notes. It is a time to learn. Be yourself.

*Choose from the following sample questions, in an order you feel comfortable. Feel free to change the order or the questions as you go through the interview.*

- a) What is your job title? Please describe what you do. How did you arrive at the place you are with your current job?
- b) How much formal education was needed in your field? What special certificates, training, diplomas, degrees or experiences were required or helpful?
- c) What kind of experience do employers want, in general? What specific experiences are good for your work?
- d) What kind of skills, talents, or work habits does a person need to go into this field?
- e) What kinds of volunteering, part time jobs, or other jobs could I be doing to gain experience for any type of work? Are there ones that are especially important for your field of work?
- f) What personal skills, attributes, or personal qualities are needed to be successful in work? What are the most important ones for your field of work?
- g) Describe the organization or company for which you work. What are its goals, size, structure, and how does it work?

- h) What type of initial training was required, if any, and what ongoing training do you have to do?
- i) How many hours are you expected to work per week? Do you go over/under?
- j) What are expectations of you outside of working hours/office hours? How much time is expected, if any?
- k) What are the most satisfying/frustrating aspects of your work?
- l) In what ways is your job stressful?
- m) How did you find your first job after high school?
- n) How important is it to know someone in the industry in order to find work?
- o) How did you get into this field, was someone or something central or significant in directing you on this path?
- p) Are there ways you stay current or grow in your field regularly?
- q) If you were to start all over would you follow this path again? What things would you do differently? What advice would you give to someone starting in your field?
- r) If your job were suddenly eliminated, what other kinds of work would you do?
- s) How does your faith/worldview/beliefs play out in your career? Does it help, hinder or change how you do your work? What advice can you give for how to share your faith/worldview/beliefs in your work?

At the end, remember to thank your mentor.

*Note:* Some of the questions were modified versions of questions from a Lake Forest College Mentorship Program: Interviewing a Mentor. Lake Forest College. (17 Dec 2012)

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