



INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

Informational Interviews

- Explore a specific field, industry, organization, or position
 - Assess whether it's a good fit for your **INTERESTS**, **VALUES**, **SKILLS**, and/ or **PERSONALITY**
- Interact individually with professionals
- Provide an opportunity to expand your network
- Gather more specific information about the industry or company
 - eg: Information that may be helpful in future job applications or interviews

Assignment

- Screenshot of a PROFESSIONAL email requesting an informational interview
- Five to six well thought out and appropriate questions to ask during the informational interview
 - Try to prepare up to eight in case some are answered/ become irrelevant as information is exchanged
- 500 word honest reflection
 - How did it go? Was the experience enjoyable?
 - What would you do differently next time?
 - What did you learn about the field, position, or organization? Pros and Cons?
 - Do you want to pursue a career in that field or area?
- Screenshot of a PROFESSIONAL thank you email

Testimonies

- “I learned that there are certificates one can obtain after completing either an associates degree, bachelors, or even masters that are really important to be credited towards finding a job (in the field)”
- “I had doubts about a ... career but (interviewee) was able to clear up my doubts and misunderstandings”
- “(the interviewee) introduced me to an internship opportunity at her work to further my knowledge and interest”
- “I also learned scheduling on somebody else’s time is very difficult, it took us several back and forth emails to decide on a date and time, and then he changed it... before we were going to meet”

Challenges

- Encouraging students to step outside their comfort zone
 - Professors, current supervisors, family members
- Importance of sending a professional email (not text or spontaneously conducting an informational interview)
- In-person vs Skype, Place of Work vs. Central location (eg: Starbucks)
- The assignment is on someone else's schedule, dependent on another's cooperation
 - I have keep some contacts on standby

