

Gather Career Information Use Informational Interviews



One of the best ways to learn about a particular occupation or career field is to talk to people working in the profession. As part of your career exploration, it is a good idea to set up some interviews strictly to obtain information. These kinds of interviews are called informational interviews.

In an informational interview, you are in charge of the interview. You get to ask the questions you want answered. As this is NOT a job interview, you have an opportunity to ask more personal questions about how the interviewee got his/her start and what advice he/she might have for you.

Asking questions is one of the best strategies to gather the information needed to learn the most from your interviewee. You can use different kinds of questions to gather information. Close-ended questions are those that can be answered with one or two words and do not give you much insight. *Do you like your job?* Open-ended questions, on the other hand, are broad questions that will get your interviewee talking. *Why do you like your job?*

Write **5 open-ended questions** for your class' informational interview. Then share your questions with at least one other student to get his/her feedback.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Informational interviewing builds relationships with people who become invested in your career, remember you, and are eager to hear about your progress.

Katharine Hansen, author, *A Foot in the Door*