

## How To Gather Info and Interview Someone with Experience in Your Chosen Career

An excellent way to learn more about occupations that interest you is to talk with people who are already in the career field that you're thinking of pursuing. Experienced people are usually happy to share their knowledge and experience with someone who is interested in what they do. And it's not unusual for an employer to spot you as a future employee in these info-gathering interviews. Being prepared and professional can help make a great first impression.

Start by calling them, introducing yourself and explaining that you're seeking first-hand information about their job or profession. Let them know you are not seeking employment yet, but you're looking for good advice from a knowledgeable source. Remember, be courteous and considerate of their time. And, it never hurts to send a nice thank you note after you've spoken with them.

Here are some questions to get the conversation started:

1. How long have you been a \_\_\_\_\_?
2. How did you decide to become a \_\_\_\_\_?
3. What kinds of schooling/training were required?
4. How did you get your first job in this field?
5. What do you like best about being a \_\_\_\_\_?
6. What do you like least about being a \_\_\_\_\_?
7. How has this job changed since you got into it?
8. What do you do during a typical day?
9. What does a beginning \_\_\_\_\_ earn and how much can a person earn after ten years of experience?
10. What are the intangible benefits of being a \_\_\_\_\_?
11. Apart from formal training, what kinds of experience should I try to get that would help me prepare to be a \_\_\_\_\_?
12. What could I read that would help me learn more about being a \_\_\_\_\_?
13. Where else could I look for more information about a career in this field?
14. Who else would you recommend I speak with about a job in this industry?