*What is an Informational Interview?*

You’re considering a certain [**career path**](https://www.themuse.com/advice/5-ways-to-testdrive-a-new-career). So, in an effort to learn more about it, you gather your courage, heed that age-old career advice, and **connect** with somebody who already works in the sort of position that you’re interested in. Yes, you put yourself out there. The hard part’s over right?

Not exactly. Making the most of that conversation involves more than just sitting down at that coffee shop corner table, staring nervously over your latte, and eventually spouting out an awkward, “So… tell me about what you do.”

In order to get the insights you’re so eager to get your hands on, you’ll need to ask targeted and smart questions. Like what? Here are seven you should absolutely have in your back pocket:

**1. “What Attracted You to This Career Path?”**

## 2. “What Previous Professional Experiences Have Helped You Most in This Role?”

## 3. “What’s Something That Would Surprise People About Your Day-to-Day?”

## 4. “What’s One Thing You Wish Somebody Would’ve Told You Before Going Into This Field?”

## 5. “What Are Some of the Biggest Rewards of Your Position?”

## 6. “How Would You Describe Somebody Who Would Excel in This Career?”

## 7. “What’s Most Important to Prepare for a Role Like Yours?”

Ideally, you’ll walk away from that conversation with a handle on your next steps. To get some actionable information that you can walk away with, end your conversation with a question like this one.

Is there a certain certification you need to get? A class you should take? Experience you have to have? Other people you should reach out to?

Find out what he or she recommends to help you adequately prepare for that job, and you’ll have leveraged that conversation to actually take steps forward.

When you’re considering a certain career path, [informational interviews](https://www.themuse.com/advice/3-steps-to-a-perfect-informational-interview) are an enlightening tool to lean on—provided you’re prepared to ask the right questions.

Consider the seven included here, and you’ll maximize that coffee date—with as few awkward pauses as possible.

Use this space (you may staple more notes) to record ideas and insights from your Informational Interview. First, organize the details of the interview.

Who did you interview? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Identify and describe how you know or came to know this contact?

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Identify and describe their connection to your career path? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes from Interview:**

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Reflect on the insights you gained and the overall value of the interview:

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