

# CURIOSITY: QUESTIONS & IDEAS

**REMEMBER: Be curious, not certain.** You are seeking wisdom—looking for information, suggestions, and advice. What are the problems in the work world that you think you could be a solution to? You can use the following questions to guide you whether you are doing research online or speaking with an individual in a field that might interest you.

## Questions to Ask & Consider

When speaking with someone, you can begin by saying something like,

*"I'm really interested in what you are doing and I would love to hear more about you and your work. I have some idea of what you do, but it would help me a lot if I had some sense of the industry and your view of the work and how it's changing over time."*

\* How did they become interested in their work and how did they get started? What in their background prepared them?

\* What is the most important thing they are doing now and need to do in the next year? What are the current priorities of that field?

\* What are the challenges facing the industry today? Are they prepared to address them? What solutions are needed?

\* What are some of the things they like best and find most satisfying about their work? What would they change if they could?

\* Are they optimistic about their field/occupation, and what do they see for the future? What do they think the industry/department needs most in order to achieve the greatest results in the future?

\* What are the most important skills or competencies needed to be successful in their field?

\* How is technology affecting their field of work?

\* In their opinion, what is the economic outlook for this type of work in the near term? The long term? What changes do they see for the future of the field?

\* To what do they attribute their current success in their work? What would you need to be successful?

\* What kinds of experience, paid or unpaid, would they encourage for anyone pursuing a career in their field?

\* Any other advice? What other things do you need to explore?



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