

# how to conduct an interview

---

After booking your interviews, planning your route, and hitting the road, the moment has finally arrived: it's time for the interview! How do you start the conversation? What do you talk about? How should you handle yourself? Read on...

1. Keep it casual. Don't worry about dressing up—you want your presence to reflect that it's just a casual conversation between a student and a mentor.
2. Be respectful. When you meet these leaders, look them in the eye and shake their hand. Make sure they know how much you appreciate being able to meet with them.
3. Share your own story. You want the leader to be comfortable sharing their story with you, so start off the conversation by sharing your story with them (where you're at in life, the issues you're facing). Be authentic and enthusiastic.
4. Prepare a few talking points. We don't like having lists of questions (because it'll seem to formal), so instead, having a few points in your head that you'd like to discuss: Where was this person when they were your age? Did they ever have pressure from family to conform? How did they figure out their passions? Let your curiosity guide you.
5. Keep it personal. Small talk is cool, but make sure most of the conversation is geared

towards the leader's personal story and the issues they faced on their life road.

6. Avoid the PR autopilot. Sometimes a leader wants to talk at length about the company that they work for. Consider that a red flag: you don't want them to talk about their company earnings or future business plans, you want them to talk about their personal road. So if you sense their PR autopilot kicking in, try to sway the conversation back to the personal side of things. You don't want to waste time talking about stuff you could read off a press release or their website.
7. Be flexible. If the conversation goes longer than planned, that's awesome! If another person wants to join in, that's great! Allow yourself to go with the flow and see where it takes you.

## *How To Close Out An Interview*

If you sense the conversation is winding down or the leader will need to leave soon, let them know that you want to be respectful of their time, and ask them if they have any last words of advice for people in situations like yours.

If you felt like a bond was created during the conversation, reach out and ask if it would be okay to correspond with him/her from time to time. Email is usually best.



[www.RoadtripNation.com](http://www.RoadtripNation.com)