

Conversation Starters

How to Go From Small talk to Meaningful Conversation...in a comfortable and natural way. Follow your curiosity. Think of dialog as exponential, break past the barrier of "boxes" within 3 layers deep. Don't bounce from topic to topic, but dive deeper within a single topic. The topic of conversation does not matter, it should be focused on the process of the conversation. And, listen (intentionally)! Not just to words, but actions. Reflect on what others share. And, with this, it is ok to stretch outside your comfort zone.

Professional Questions:

1. Why did you choose your field of study?
2. What challenges did you face in undergrad related to the STEM field?
(Repeat for graduate and professional as appropriate.)
3. What qualities do you think young people need to develop to be successful in the work place?
4. How was your undergraduate experience?
5. What is your opinion on navigating life after college? How do you feel about Graduate School, Academia, and Industry?
6. What is something you know now that you wish you learned sooner?

Personal Questions:

1. Why did you sign up to be a mentor in this program?
2. What are your hobbies?
3. What is a goal on your bucket list?
4. If you could instantly be an expert in any field, which would it be?
5. What is a skill you learned as a kid that you use today?
6. Where are you from?