

Connecting Students with Alumni Exercise

Lesson Objectives:

- Be able to find an alum to interview whose career is of interest to you.
- Be able to develop open-ended questions to learn about the alum's career.
- Be able to write a career profile of the alum for your college/university website.

Resources Needed:

- Access to Zoom or Teams so that the semi-structured interview can be recorded.
- Paper and pen or laptop.

Process:

- The activity can be completed over a few hours.
- Work on your own or in teams.



Activity:

1. Visit your college/university LinkedIn page to find prospective alumni to interview.
2. Collect and prioritize these prospective interviewees based on any common career interest.
3. Write and send an email to the first alum on the list. Describe the exercise's objectives and request about 30 minutes of the alum's time. If there is no response after one week, send an email to the second alum on the list.
4. Develop a set of questions that include topics such as schooling, finding first professional role after degree, skills and experience needed for that role, positions held since, what alum has valued and found challenging about the career to date, and any advice for anthropology students today as they enter the job market.
5. Conduct and record the interview using Zoom or Teams.
6. Send a professionally-written thank you note to the alum within three to five days of the interview.
7. Create a career profile of the alum that would be helpful for students and job seekers to read. Limit the profile to no more than 500 words. Include selected quotes and appropriate visuals. You might also add links to websites relevant to the alum (e.g., LinkedIn page, university, current work organization).
8. Send the profile to the alum for validation (i.e., any input or edits on accuracy, completeness) and a picture for the website. Thank the alum again.
9. Finalize profile for inclusion on the college/university website.

Outcomes:

- Written and validated career profile of an anthropology alum from your college/university.
- Practice in conducting a professional, career-related interview.

