Conversation with a Mentor

**Purpose**

As we approach the final week of the course, it’s time to begin synthesizing what you’ve learned about yourself and to become more aware of your professional development. You will engage in this synthesis by thinking analytically about yourself and by soliciting input from others.

**Learning Objectives**

- To engage in reflective self-analysis
- To practice good networking skills by professionally “reaching out” for constructive advice

**Step 1:**

Engage in a conversation (in person, phone call, skype, etc.) with someone whose opinion you respect and who has experience working in a professional environment (that doesn’t just mean a business! Any professional environment is okay). This person can be a parent, family member, friend of the family, older sibling, or mentor. It CANNOT be a student, your roommate, etc. This person needs to have had at least a few years’ experience in the professional world.

- Share with this person what you’ve learned thus far in Compass 1—about yourself, about professionalism, networking and communication, and about tools like brand pitches, LinkedIn, etc.
- Seek advice and guidance. How does this person think these concepts and insights will help you in the professional world? What do they know about you that they could add to what you’ve learned about yourself or that you could add to your Personal SWOT? What advice do they have about figuring out your major, setting goals, developing your professionalism and your brand, etc.?
- Reflect on this conversation. What did you learn from this conversation? What insights did you have? What came out of this conversation that you want to “hold on to” or keep in mind as you move forward in your college experience?

*Write 2 to 3 paragraphs (at least 300 words) outlining what you learned from this conversation. Be specific and include concrete examples.*

I chose my conversation with a mentor to be with my father, Rishi Bagaria. He has had more than 20 years of work experience as the Director of Steelsworth Pvt. Ltd. Therefore, through my conversation about BUS-T 175, his experiences in the real world reflected how big an impact this class would make on my real professional life. He gave his reflections on the different In-Class assignments and other assignments as I discussed it with him. Assignments like the Careerleader report and Keirsey report help a student clear out as to what major or career would be the best for him. The informational interview has taught us how to conduct an interview. The Career Possibilities assignment has the student work on the details of their best fit major or career. The LinkedIn profile opens a huge range on network which most of us never knew existed. The Personal Brand Poster helps us discover what differentiates each one of us from the rest. On using the poster with employers, it really does help us be different from the rest. As my mentor reflected that he meets thousands of people, there are very few things that differentiate one person from another and therefore, the personal brand poster is a very efficient way to communicate and be remembered.

This conversation with him made me realize that BUS-T 175 is something that has made me act as a business professional for the first time in my life. It acts as the first steps to my professional business career. It has helped me more than I had imagined and it would continue to help me even more in the future. Finally, I was told that it was these little things that mattered in the business world and to never take these little things for granted.

**Step 2:**

Now that you’ve had a chance to reflect on yourself and on what you’ve learned so far this
semester, list 10 specific things you’ve learned in Compass 1. *Be Specific!* This can range from specific things you learned about yourself (qualities, values, interests, etc.) to specific skills you gained (writing, speaking, networking, etc.). These should be in-depth answers (i.e. simply saying “social media” isn’t what I’m looking for – what did you learn about social media and what personal changes did you make?)

1. Professionalism in social media websites
2. Networking with different people through LinkedIn and its importance
3. Exploring different majors in the Kelley School of Business
4. Setting goals for my future career
5. Conducting an interview
6. Creating my personal brand
7. Creating a professional social profile through LinkedIn
8. Creating a brand poster that differentiates me from the rest
9. Ways to act professional during a meeting, interview or seminars
10. Confident of my majors, career and long term goals

**Step 3:**
Submit your assignment to Canvas and **bring a hard copy to this week’s class** that includes your reflection from **Step 1** and your list from **Step 2**. *You will only earn points for this assignment if you come to class on time, stay for the entire class and turn it in at the end.*