



What Do I Do After the Meeting?

SEND A THANK YOU NOTE

Within 24 hours, send an email thank you note and follow it with a handwritten thank you note.

THANK YOU NOTE TIP

The Meruelo Family Center for Career Development offers free note cards available for your use as thank you cards. Cards are located at both north and south desks on the 5th floor of Duncan Student Center.

REFLECT ON WHAT YOU LEARNED

Every informational interview allows you to learn about possible careers. Take the time to reflect upon what you learned and how that relates to your own values, interests, personality, and skills. You might find that your interest has been piqued further, or that a particular career isn't exactly what you thought it was. It's important to have multiple conversations with people in a given field to get a full picture of it.

DEVELOP A PLAN TO STAY IN TOUCH

Since networking is relationship building, it's important to stay in touch with your contacts. It may be a simple email filling them in on something new in your professional life, sending an article that could be of interest to them, or sharing a seasonal greeting. It is appropriate to follow up every few months, but it depends on whether or not you have something substantial to say. Don't forget, not everyone will find time to reciprocate so don't take offense if you don't get a reply. Also create a database to track contact information - name, date of conversation or follow-up, outcome, and notes.

FINAL TIPS/KEYS TO NETWORKING

- Create a list of everyone you know and identify how they could help you gather career information
- Define what information you need and what you are trying to accomplish
- Know yourself (values, interests, personality, and skills) and practice a concise introduction
- Start each in-person encounter with a firm handshake, good eye contact, and a smile
- Be tactful, courteous, and authentic in all conversations
- Adopt a positive attitude about networking and be proactive
- Send communications at least a week apart and no more than 3 times; if you don't receive a response, move on
- Create a database of contacts with notes about each person and conversations you had
- Send a thank you note after any networking interaction
- Focus on quality of interactions, not quantity
- Be patient - you may start slowly but soon you will build momentum

THANK YOU NOTE EXAMPLES

Dear Mr./Ms. Alum,

Thank you again for taking time from your busy schedule to speak with me last Friday morning about your career. Your advice was very helpful! I will be contacting Ms. Amy Smith today, as you suggested. In addition to following up with that contact, I have applied to job openings with ABC Inc., and XYZ Co. Thank you for that suggestion!

(Include a point or two about advice they gave you that you took to heart).

I hope you have a great start to the summer! Again, thanks for your insight. If any additional suggestions come to your mind please pass them along. I will keep you posted on my job search progress.

Regards,

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