

SCENARIO #1

You are interested in pursuing the field of social work and want to connect with a stranger to learn more.

Consider connections you already have, see if friends/family/profs know anyone in the field

Search for individuals studying or working in the field of social work on LinkedIn

Review social work program pages to identify names of people that could be contacted

How would you navigate finding someone to connect with?

Search for current social workers in the workforce on LinkedIn

See if there are any academic clubs in the social work area

SCENARIO #1

You've found someone to connect with, her name is Betty!

General introduction (name, program & interest in social work,) explain why you reached out to Betty specifically (what about her work caught your eye)

Reach out via email that includes info about me (name, program of study), note where found their info, and share that hoping to connect on shared interest of social work

Introduce name, what I'm studying and say I'm interested in pursuing social work in the future

How would you introduce yourself and start that connection?

If in person (imagining at a conference) could connect by asking about their oral or poster presentation

SCENARIO #1

You are now going to meet with Betty and chat about social work.

How did you get to where you're at?

Favourite thing(s) about the job/field, why did she choose to pursue social work?

What type of social work are you doing (e.g. educational, community, etc.)

What does a day in your work life look like?

What questions could you ask to get to know her better?

What are some challenges you face at your work?

What did you wish you knew before going into social work?

SCENARIO #1

You are now going to meet with Betty and chat about social work.

Why did you decide to pursue a(n) (non)academic career?

How did you get started in your current position?

how has your job affected your daily life/mindset?

Not sure if this one is relevant ... What are your future plans for your career?

Do you recommend going through your route (e.g. program, placements, etc.)

What questions might you ask about her academic/career journey?

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You and Betty have now had a chance to chat and your conversation is coming to a close.

send a follow-up email, thanking her for her time (even if you don't intend to stay connected)

General check ins, getting coffee, etc (you don't want to only reach out to people when you need something from them)

Bring up important times for the career, like end of term or busy/off seasons (how has she been doing with the ____ happening)

Ask if can exchange contact info (email, able to add them on LinkedIn)

How would you keep connected?

Pretending Betty is an active researcher: Email them when publish paper, report, etc. to share that you read it and what you liked about it/found interesting