Interview a mentor-eligible faculty member.

Before your conversation, learn some basic information about your interviewee (likely available online). At a minimum, you should:

- Learn your interviewee’s specific field of research.
- Find out where she or he attended graduate school.
- Review a recent publication, patent, creative work, etc. prepared by your interviewee; it is not necessary (or expected) that you fully understand it, but it will help give you a sense of the kind of work your interviewee produces as well as what research writing style they may expect from you should they become your mentor.

In the interview, use the themes and questions below to organize your conversation.

The interviewee as an expert

- How did you first get involved in [field of research]?
- What experiences were important in your decision to pursue graduate work and an academic career? What led you to attend [graduate school]?

The thesis

- What constitutes scholarly work for undergraduates in your field?
- What advice would you give a student developing an undergraduate thesis topic?
- I haven’t yet started my thesis. How would you recommend I prepare myself in advance to make the process as productive and manageable as possible?

The interviewee as a mentor

- Have you ever mentored an HC student before?
- What qualities do you look for in a thesis student?
- In what ways do you think a mentor can help an undergraduate thesis writer?

Don’t forget to ask your own question(s).

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