

# ***ECF Sophomore Seminar Assignment: Interview a fellow Fellow***

## **Introduction & Motivation:**

You are at the starting point for your long-term, mentored project. It is often helpful to get advice from those who are further along in the process. In this assignment, you will interview a current junior or senior Elon College Fellow with similar interests to yours. You will ask them about their experiences and lessons learned so far, and write your reflections on what you have learned.

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**Genre:** Reflection on Interview

**Audience:** Yourself, primarily, and other ECF sophomores secondarily

**Purpose:** To internalize and analyze advice given by a more senior student, deciding what does and does not apply to you.

**Length:** 1 - 1.5 pages, single spaced

## **Process:**

1. Working with your instructor, identify one or more current Elon College Fellows or research students working in your major, or a related major. Secure a time and place for an informal interview.
2. Take good notes during your interview. In addition to your own questions, you should get the following information:

### ***I. Finding a Mentor***

- \* How they found their mentor
- \* Their assessment of the effectiveness of their approach to finding a mentor
- \* Their suggestions about what they would and would not do if they had to find a mentor all over again.

### ***II. The Research Model***

- \* How they developed a research project with their mentor
- \* The nature of that process (e.g. Student originated? Faculty originated? Some combination? Be sure to get shades of gray and specifics).
- \* What roles and tasks each person has
- \* How often they meet with their mentor, what the meetings are like, what kinds of assignments are required, what kind of feedback is provided by the mentor?

### ***III. Mentoring Relationship & Expectations***

- \* What kind of relationship they have with their mentor
- \* What characteristics they have found most useful in a mentor
- \* Their suggestions about what they would and would not do in terms of developing a relationship with their mentor if they had it to do all over again.

3. Write a reflection on what you are taking away from the interview, giving references to some specifics of the interviewee's answers. Your reflection can be a single essay, or organized by sections/questions, but the focus here is **not** a simple recounting or report of what they said, but rather a reflection on what you learned and how you might use it.

In particular, your reflection should address:

- \* Did you learn anything that surprised or concerned you?
- \* In what ways did this interview help you clarify or question the approach you anticipate using in terms of your own mentor and research experience?

**Assessment Criteria:**

- Does the writing include reference to specifics, without being a transcript?
- Does the writing focus on how it affects the author's understanding or approach to finding a mentor and/or the research experience?
- Does the statement meet the length requirement and demonstrate polished prose?

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