

Developing your “Elevator Pitch”

As you start to meet people working in areas of interest to you, it will be critically important to communicate who you are and what you are hoping to learn from them. An “elevator speech” — so called because you should be able to give it within the course of an elevator ride — serves as your introduction. You may have a 15 second version to use at a party, a 30 second version for someone you sit next to at an alumni dinner, or a full minute to kick off an informational interview. The questions below are designed to help you craft your pitch.

What are you currently involved in? Think in terms of classes you are taking, leadership roles you play, volunteer services, athletics—whatever takes up your time and energy.

What fields and/or organizations are starting to pique your interest? How has that interest come about?

What transferable skills have you developed that may be applicable?

What do you anticipate will be the biggest concern on the part of employers considering you for a job or internship?

What is it that you want to know from someone in the field?