Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

BA ANIMATION & VFX
BA COMPUTER GAMES DESIGN

PERSONAL PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Career Opportunities

Career Opportunities

Lecture Contents

1. Career Conversations
2. The Career ‘Sweet Spot’ Venn Diagram
3. Meaningful Networking

Career Opportunities

Career Conversations

PERSONAL PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Career Opportunities

CAREER CONVERSATIONS

What is your dream job?

What job do you think would bring you the most enjoyment and happiness?

Why do you think this?



[1]

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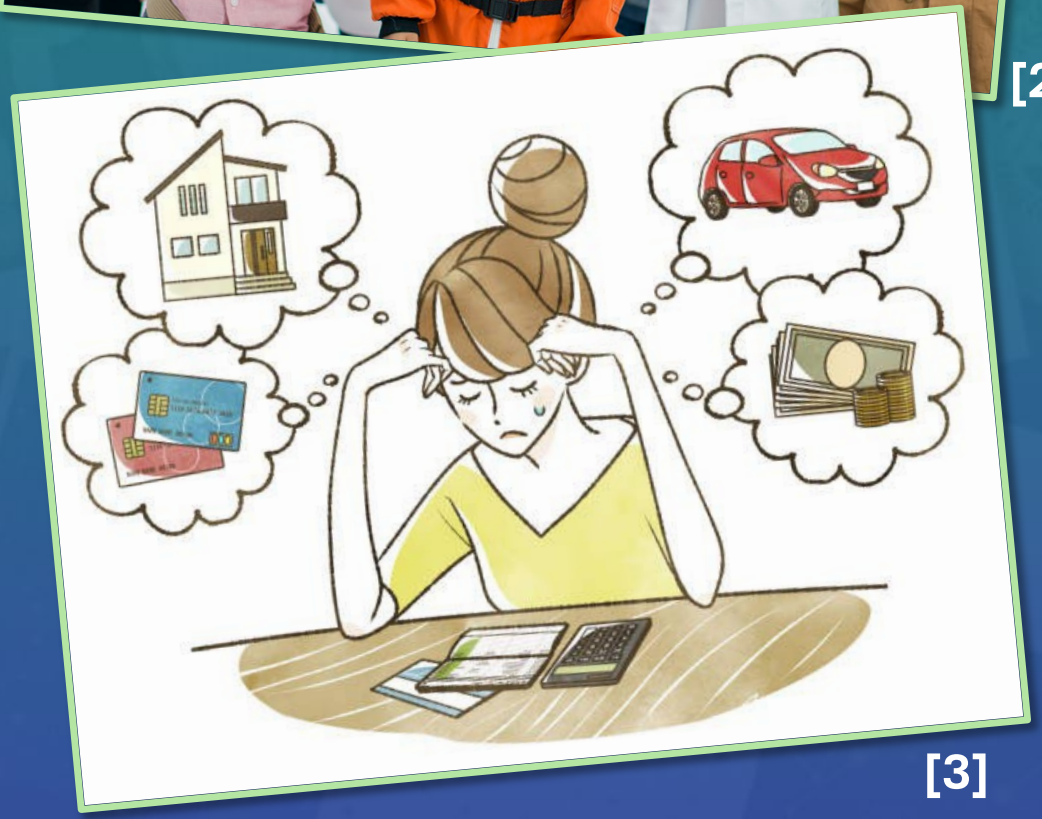
CAREER CONVERSATIONS

When you are young you are told that you can be anything you want to be when you grow up.



[2]

However, when you graduate, the question often evolves into how you are going to pay for your mortgage.



[3]

Your life trajectory is likely to change over time because of things beyond your control.

CAREER CONVERSATIONS

To mitigate these changes, you need to be resilient in your career journey.

A way of doing this is to curate conversations that present opportunities that are offered in ways you can take advantage of.

According to Sarah Andrus, conversations are the fuel for identifying meaningful career opportunities.

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CAREER CONVERSATIONS

To increase the serendipity and therefore the active luck needed to identify opportunities, we should be having career conversations as often as possible.

These conversations can be had with anyone and at any moment. [4]



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CAREER CONVERSATIONS

To identify the opportunities that are best suited to you, ask yourself the following:

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CAREER CONVERSATIONS

To identify the opportunities that are best suited to you, ask yourself the following:

- What am I good at?

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CAREER CONVERSATIONS

To identify the opportunities that are best suited to you, ask yourself the following:

- What am I good at?
- What do I enjoy doing?

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CAREER CONVERSATIONS

To identify the opportunities that are best suited to you, ask yourself the following:

- What am I good at?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- Who's doing what I want to do?

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Sarah Andrus: The Job Hunt is Dead (TEDx) (18:28) [5]

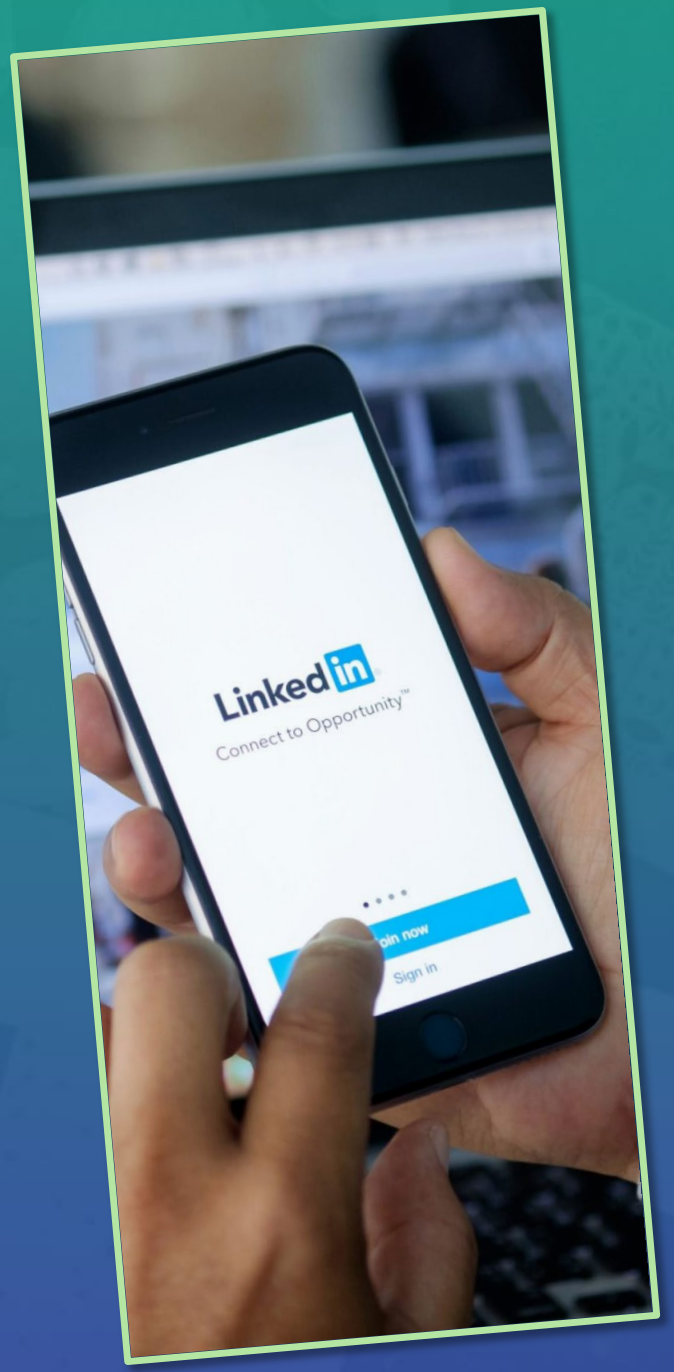
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EXERCISE: Create LinkedIn Profile

If you do not already have a LinkedIn profile, consider creating one now.

Visit LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com



Consider creating a ‘professional’ sounding email address if you do not already have one. Keep it relevant – such as your name combined with your area of expertise, e.g.:

- richard_morgan_design@outlook.com
- adamhead_3D@gmail.com
- nabeel_vfx@yahoo.co.uk

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The Career ‘Sweet Spot’ Venn Diagram

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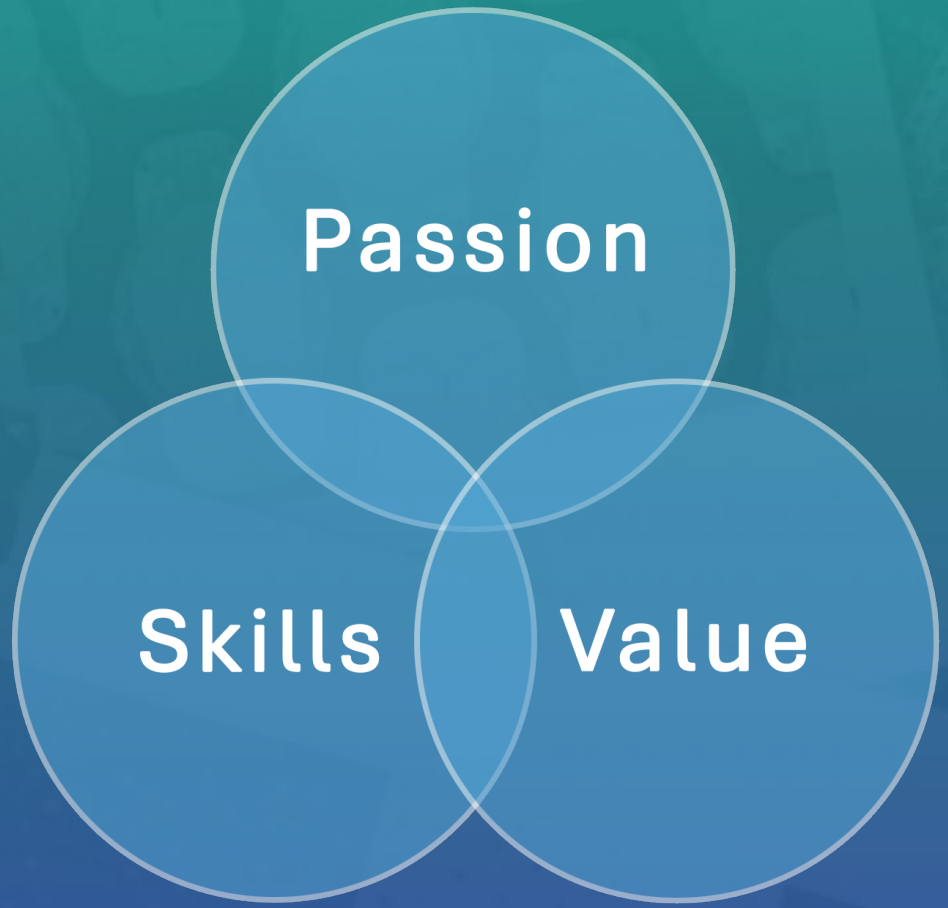
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THE CAREER 'SWEET SPOT' VENN DIAGRAM

You can use this Venn Diagram to visually align your passion, strengths, and opportunities. This can help you discover your unique career "sweet spot". [6]

It's a useful tool that can help you optimize your career path and grow your strengths. [7]

There are three elements to consider: Passion, Skills, and Value.



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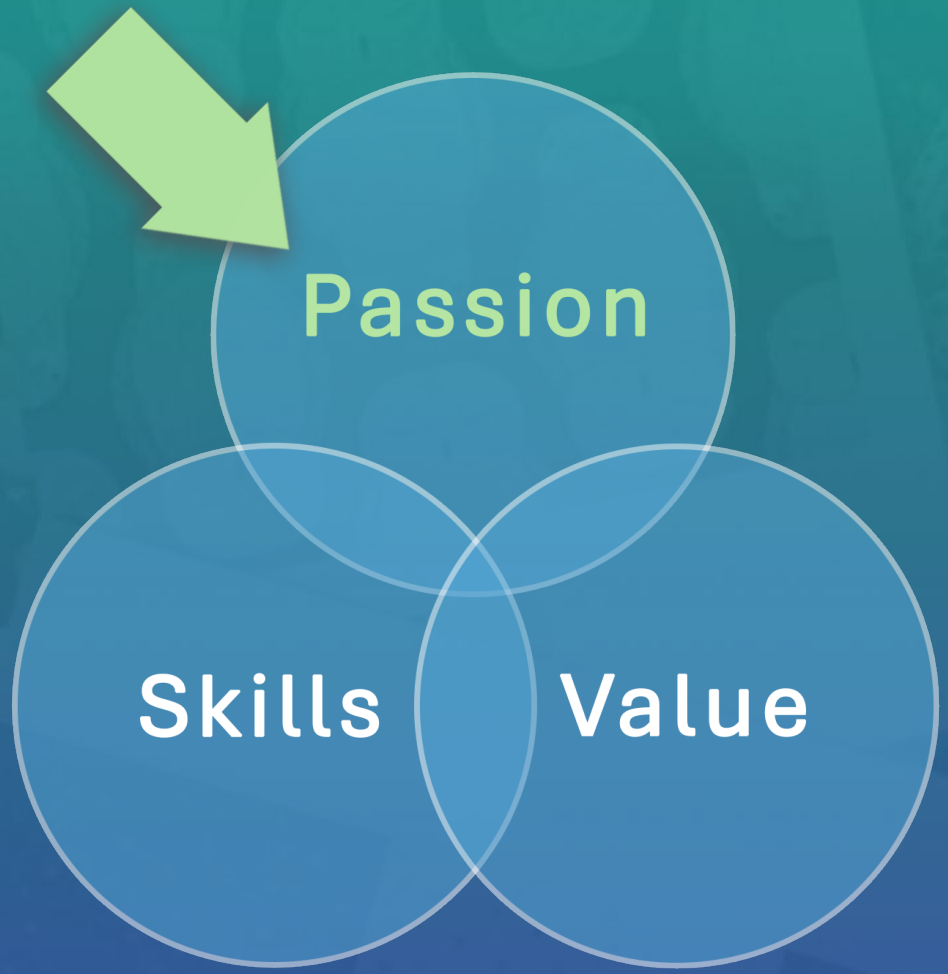
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THE CAREER ‘SWEET SPOT’ VENN DIAGRAM

Passion

This is what you are deeply interested in and motivated by.

When you are passionate about what you do, you bring more energy and enthusiasm, which often leads to greater creativity and perseverance. [7]



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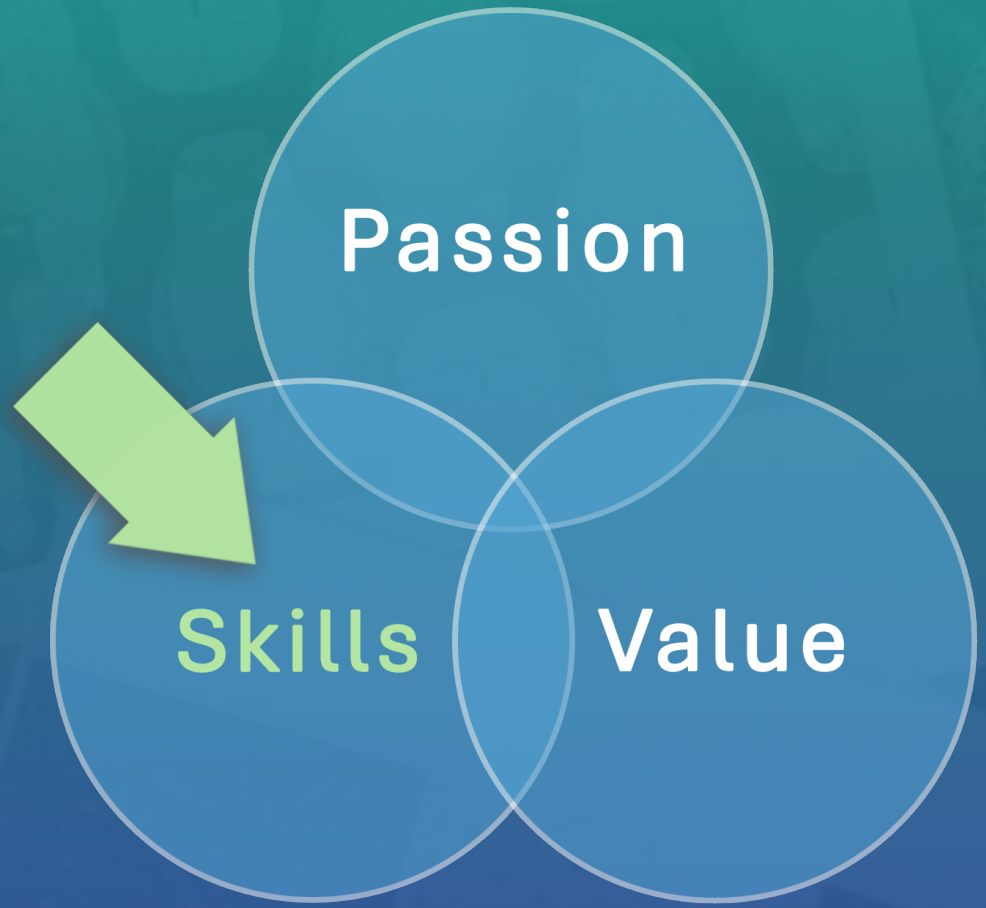
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THE CAREER 'SWEET SPOT' VENN DIAGRAM

Skills

This represents what you are naturally good at or have developed proficiency in.

When you work within your areas of talent, you are more likely to excel and produce high-quality work. [7]



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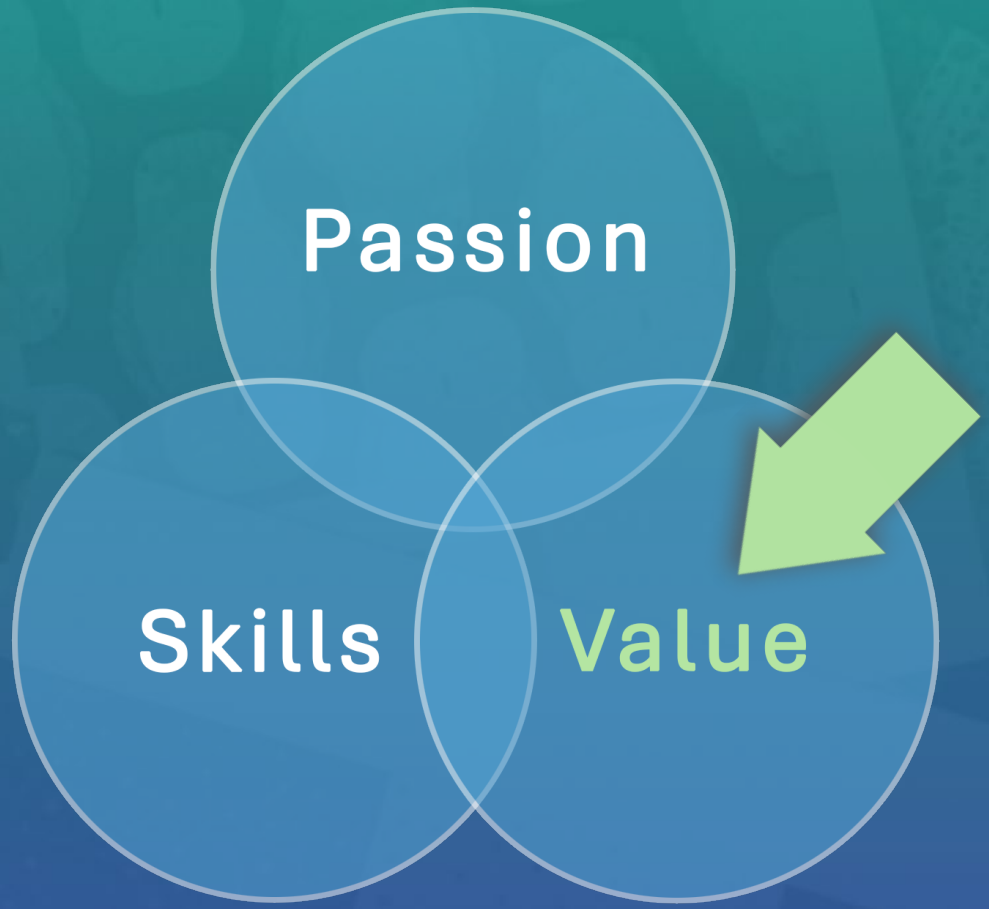
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THE CAREER ‘SWEET SPOT’ VENN DIAGRAM

Value

This is how the market (or your organization or community) values your talents and passions.

When your skills and interests align with what is valued and needed, you create opportunities for financial stability, career advancement, and impactful contributions. [7]



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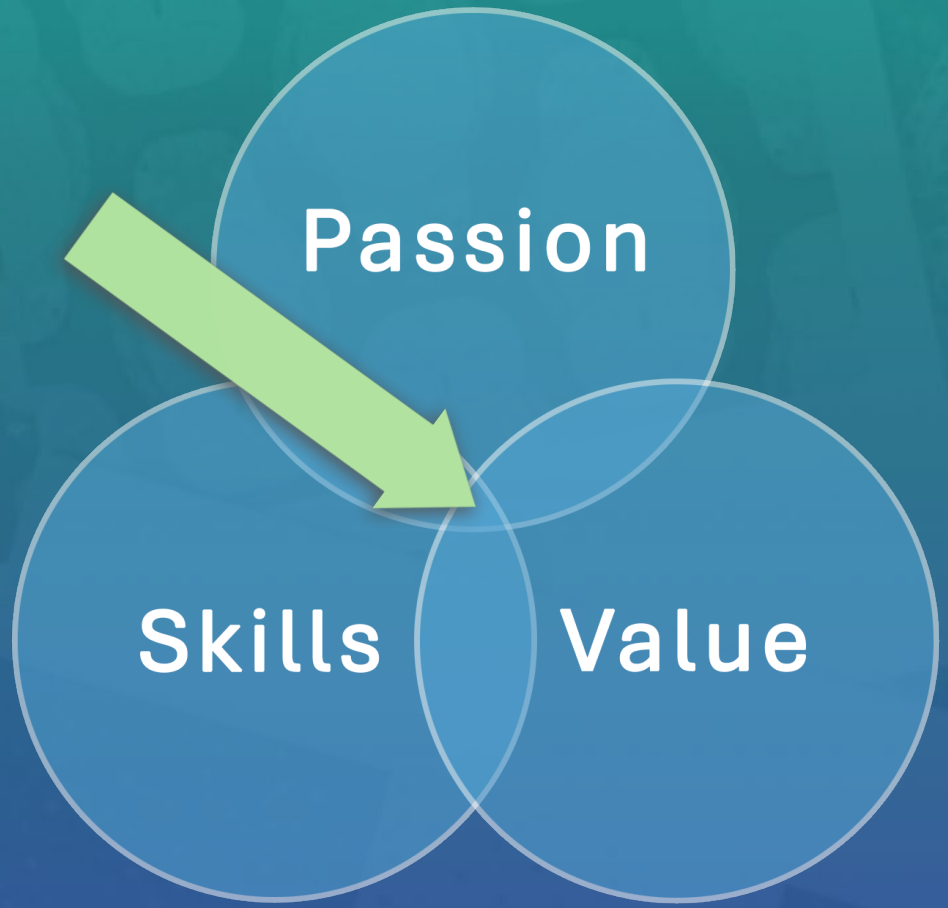
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THE CAREER 'SWEET SPOT' VENN DIAGRAM

The Career 'Sweet Spot' is the intersection of the three elements you have identified, where your personal passions, skills and value overlap.

It is when all three are present in your work that your potential for success and job satisfaction is maximised.

Conducting this exercise can help you make more informed decisions about your career path, professional development and the types of projects or roles you pursue. [7]



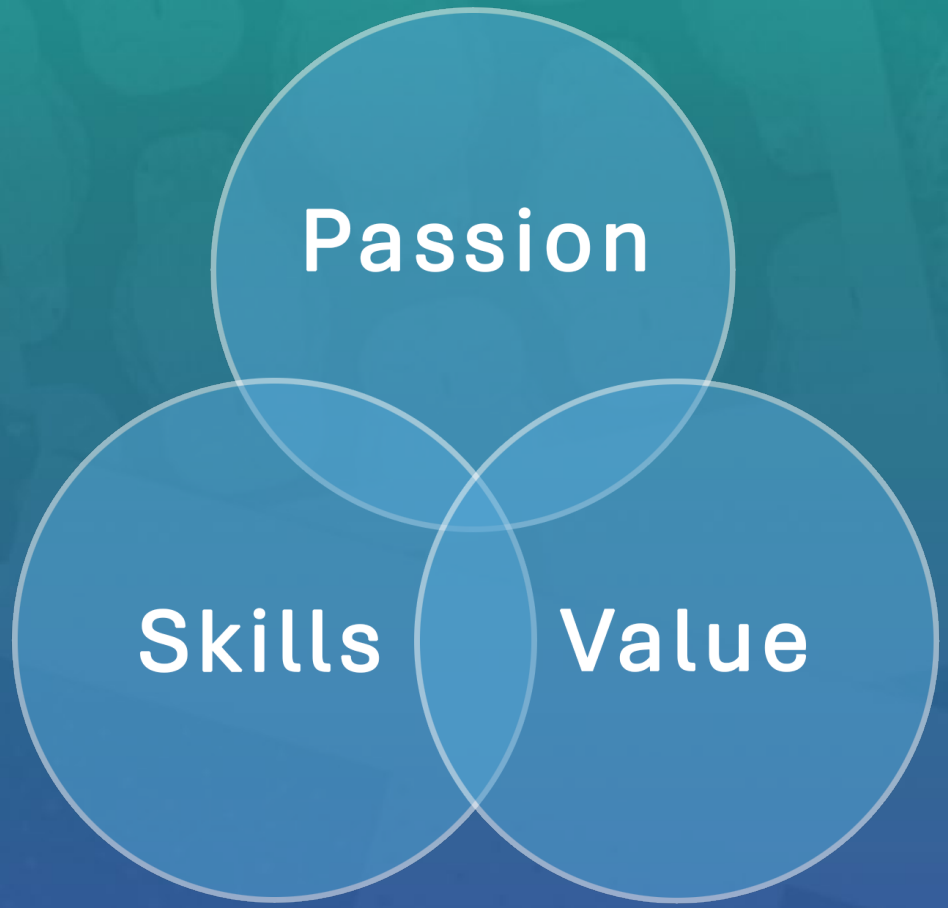
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EXERCISE

Complete your own ‘Sweet Spot’ career diagram.

- In the Passion section, enter what you enjoy doing.
- In the Skills section, enter what you are good at, your strengths and the soft and hard skills that you have developed so far.
- In the Value section, enter the names of some people or companies who are doing what you would like to do. To do this, research the industry/sector you are interested in and find some potential organizations in which you see yourself working.



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Meaningful Networking

MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

As undergraduates and jobseekers, you are often told about the importance of networking but often people neglect to dive deeper and offer advice on how this can be achieved effectively.

Networking is not only about trading information, but also serves as an avenue to create long-term relationships with mutual benefits. [8]

The following pointers from FasterCapital offer some insight into how to initiate networking conversations and to make the experience more meaningful.



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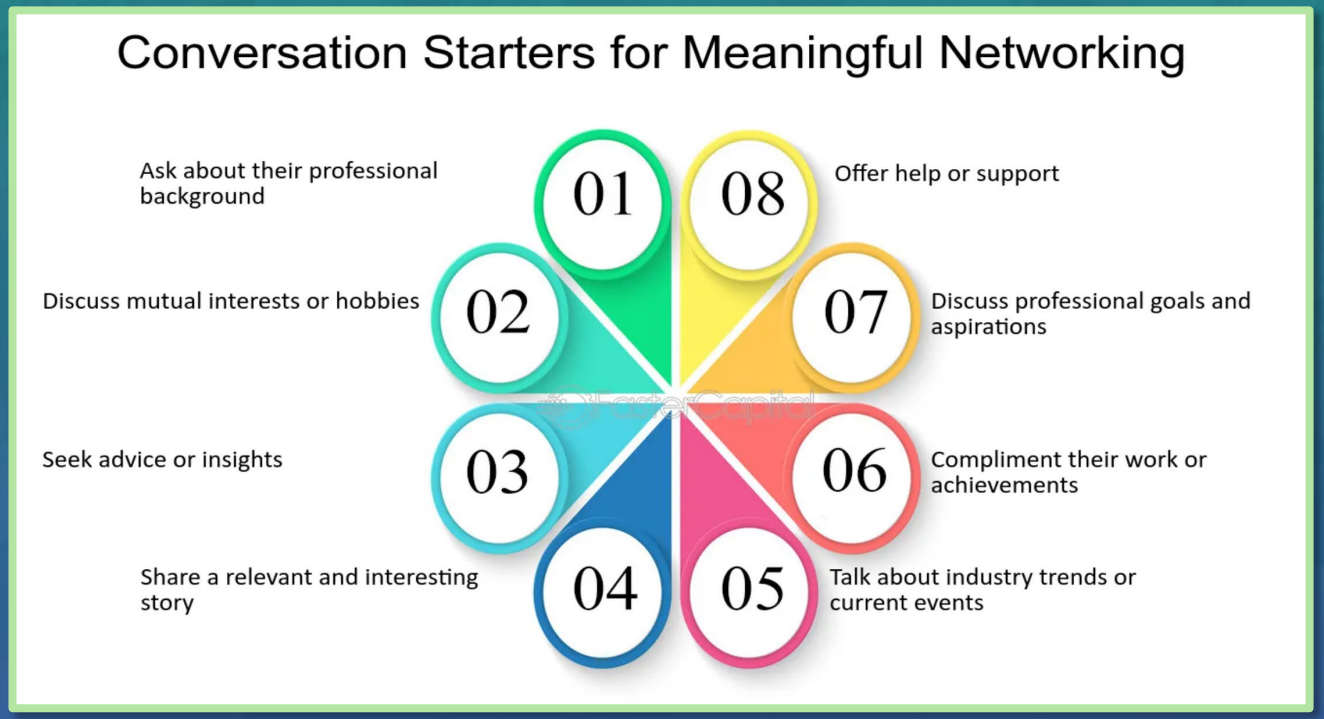
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MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

1. Ask about their professional background

One of the most effective conversation starters at networking events is to inquire about the other person's professional background.

Showing genuine interest in their journey and experiences can open up a meaningful conversation and help you understand their expertise better. For example, you could ask, "Tell me about your career path and how you got to where you are today?“ [9]

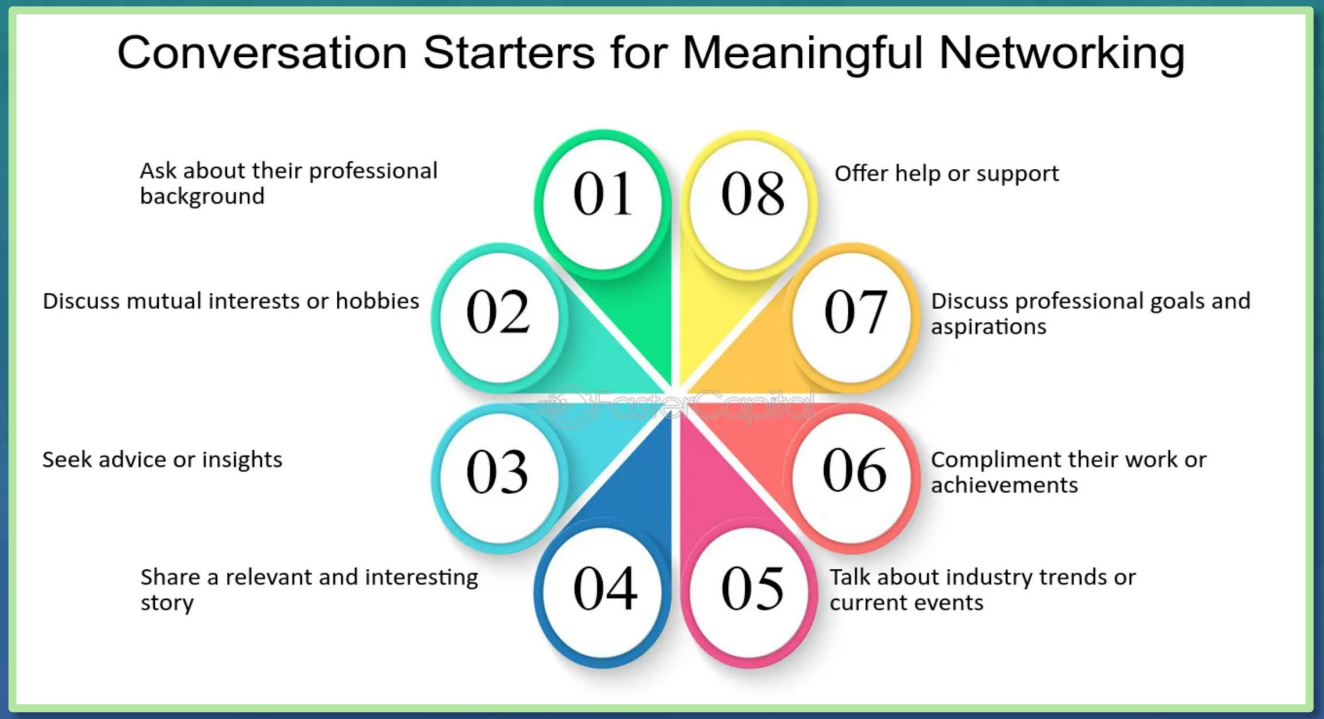


MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

2. Discuss mutual interests or hobbies

Finding common ground with someone can quickly establish a connection and make networking more enjoyable.

Ask questions about their hobbies or interests outside of work, such as sports, travel, or music. By sharing your own interests, you can create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that goes beyond professional topics. [9]

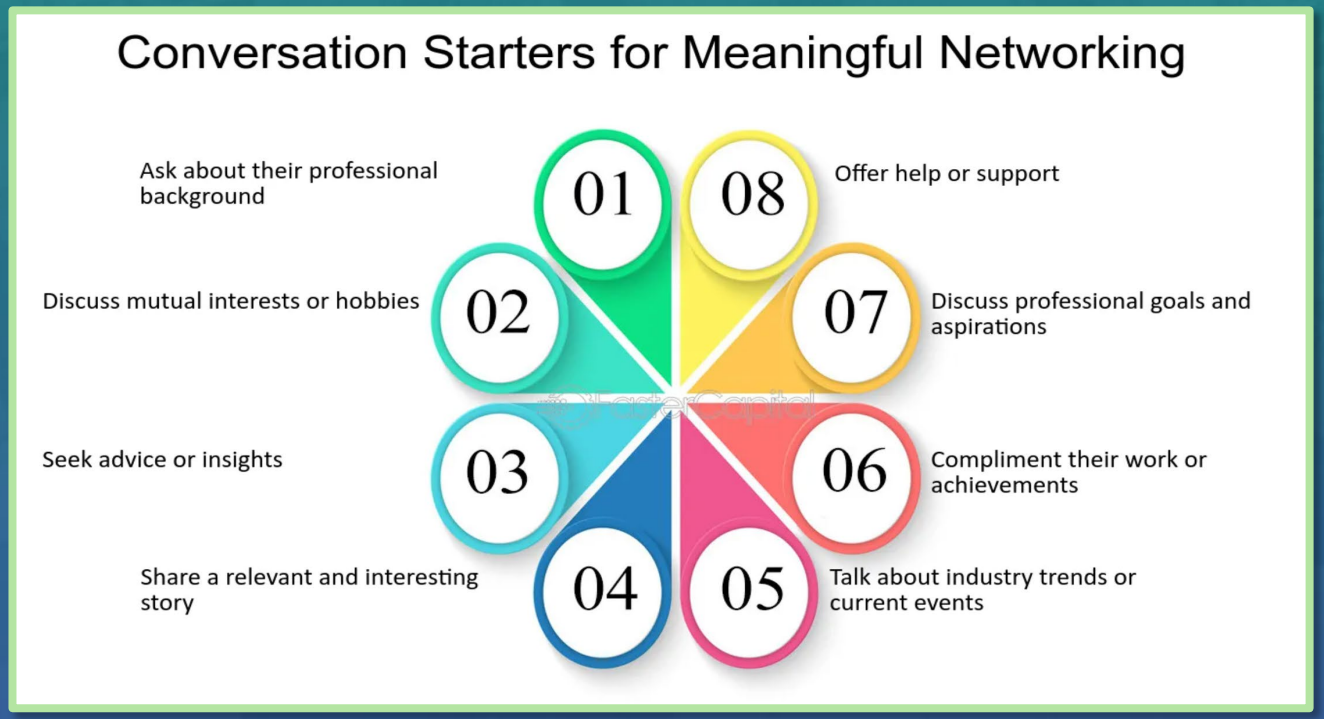


MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

3. Seek advice or insights

People love offering advice and sharing their knowledge. By approaching someone at a networking event and asking for their insights on a particular industry trend, professional challenge, or future prospects, you not only show respect for their expertise but also create an opportunity for a meaningful conversation.

For instance, you could say, "I've been facing some challenges in my field recently, and I'd love to hear your thoughts on how to overcome them.“ [9]

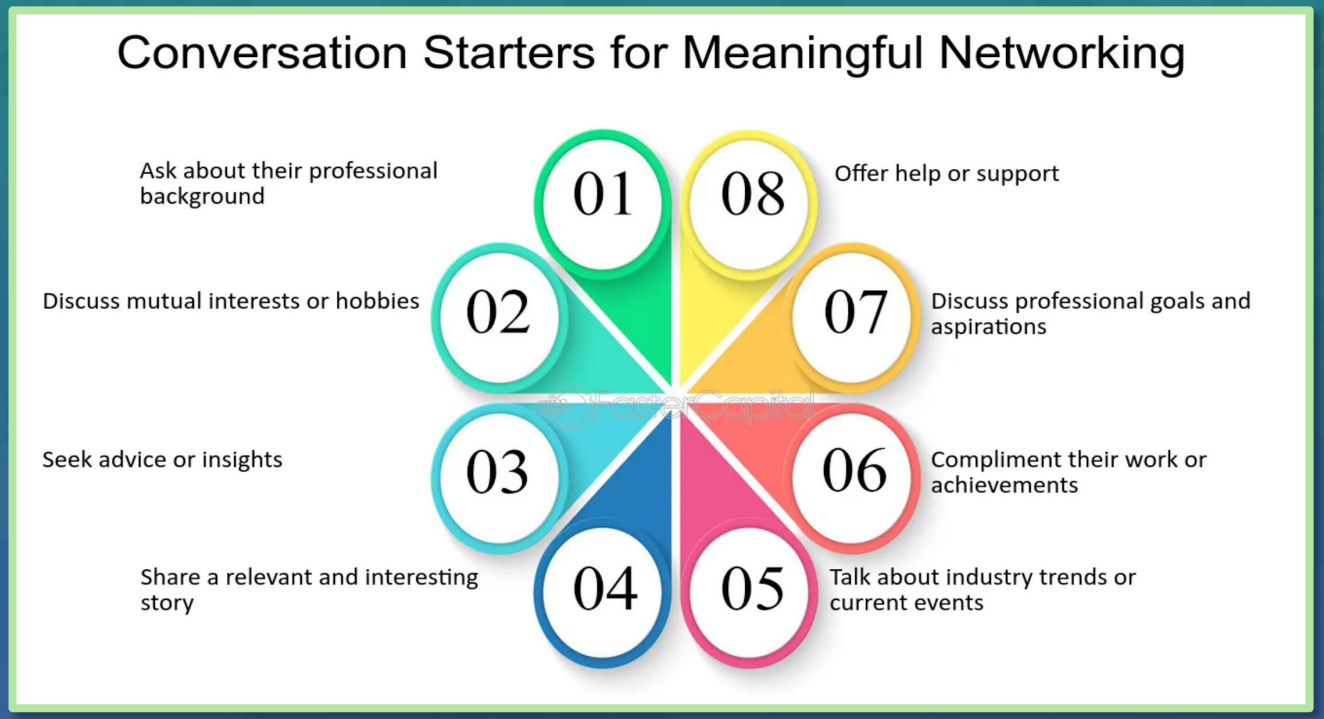


MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

4. Share a relevant and interesting story

A captivating story can be a powerful tool to engage others and leave a lasting impression. Prepare a few short anecdotes related to your professional journey or a recent project you've worked on.

By sharing your experiences, you not only showcase your expertise but also give the other person a chance to connect with you on a personal level. [9]



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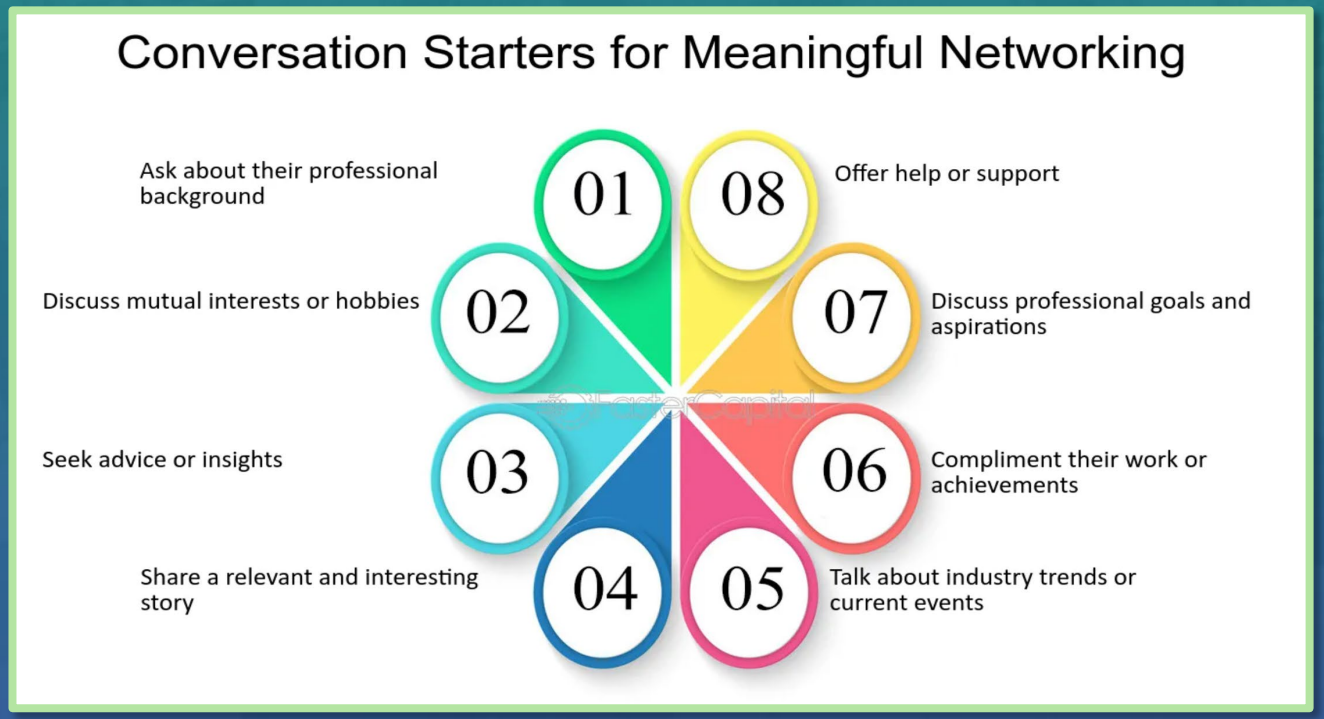
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MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

5. Talk about industry trends or current events

Keeping up with the latest industry trends and current events shows that you are knowledgeable and invested in your field.

Discussing relevant topics can lead to engaging conversations and allow you to exchange valuable insights with others. For example, you could ask, "What are your thoughts on the recent changes in our industry, and how do you see it evolving in the future?“ [9]

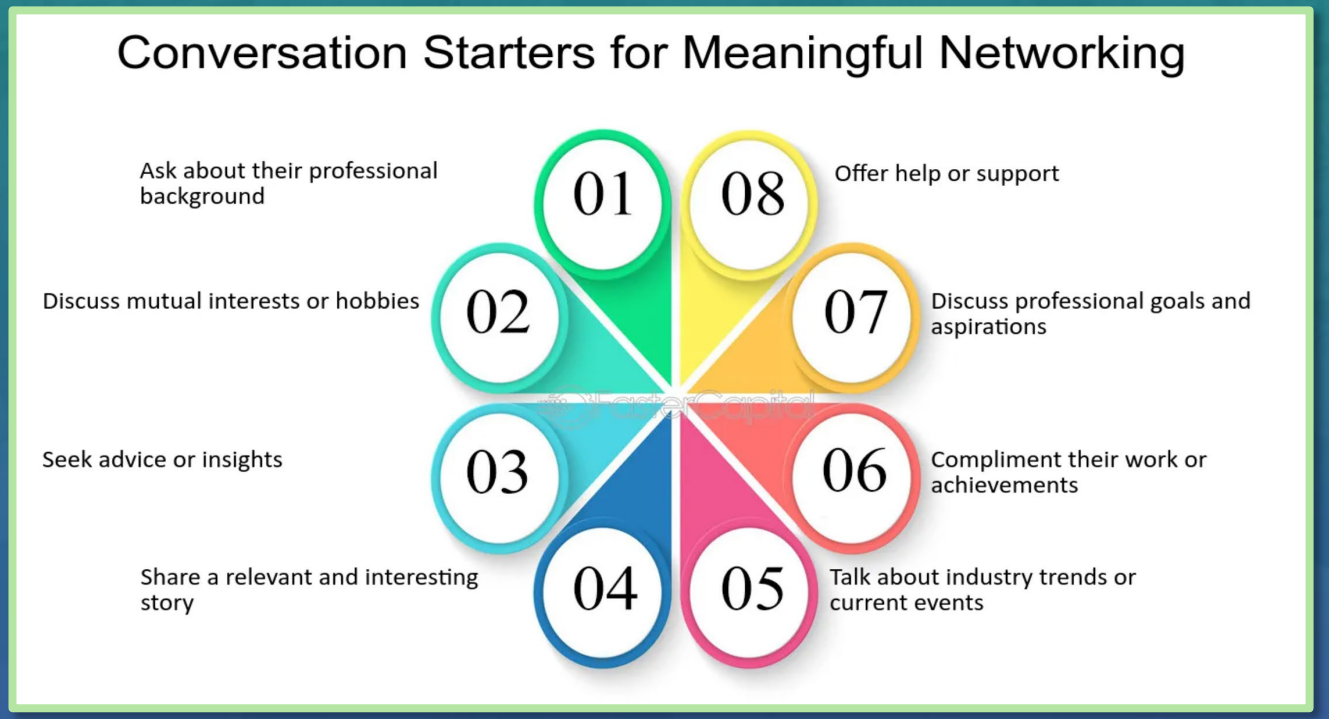


MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

6. Compliment their work or achievements

A sincere compliment is always appreciated and can be an excellent icebreaker.

Take the time to research the person you want to connect with and find something specific to compliment them on, such as a recent article they published or a project they completed. It shows that you've done your homework and are genuinely interested in their work. [9]

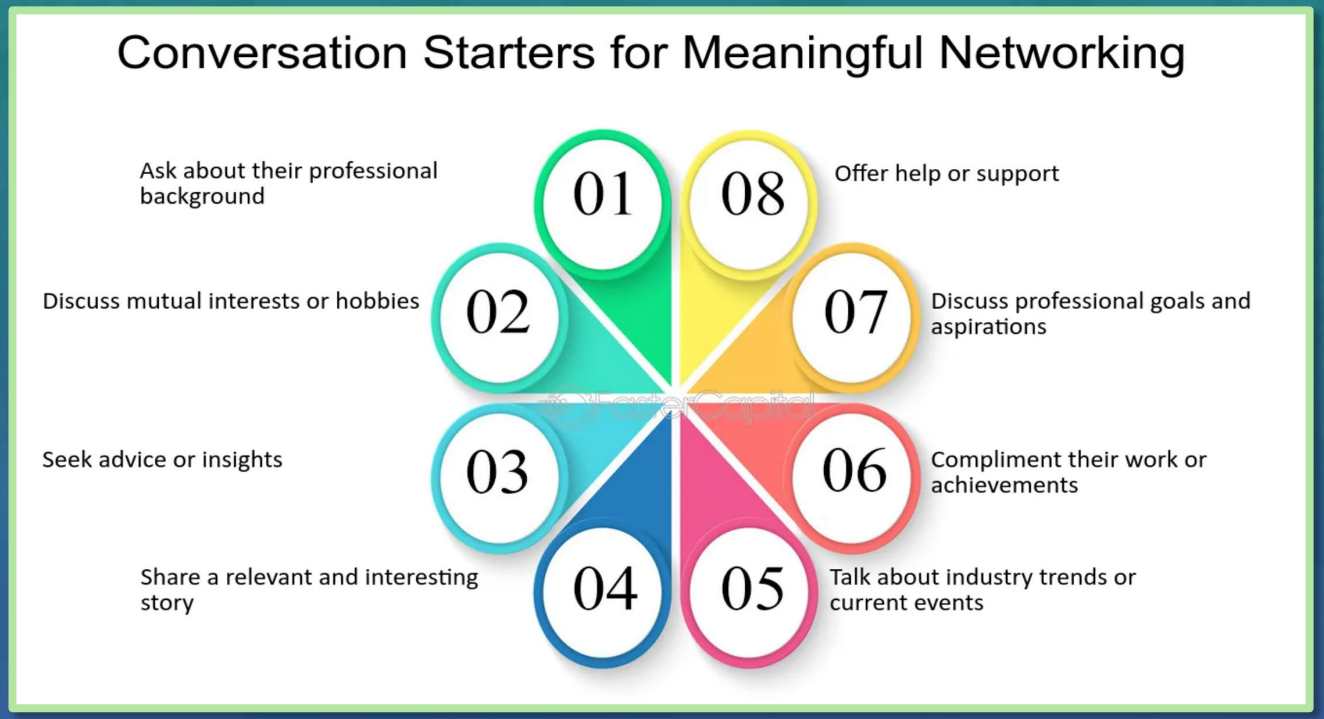


MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

7. Discuss professional goals and aspirations

Networking events are an ideal platform to share your professional goals and aspirations.

By openly discussing your ambitions, you not only give others a chance to provide valuable advice or connections but also create an opportunity for them to share their own goals. This exchange can foster a deeper connection and potentially lead to future collaborations or partnerships. [9]

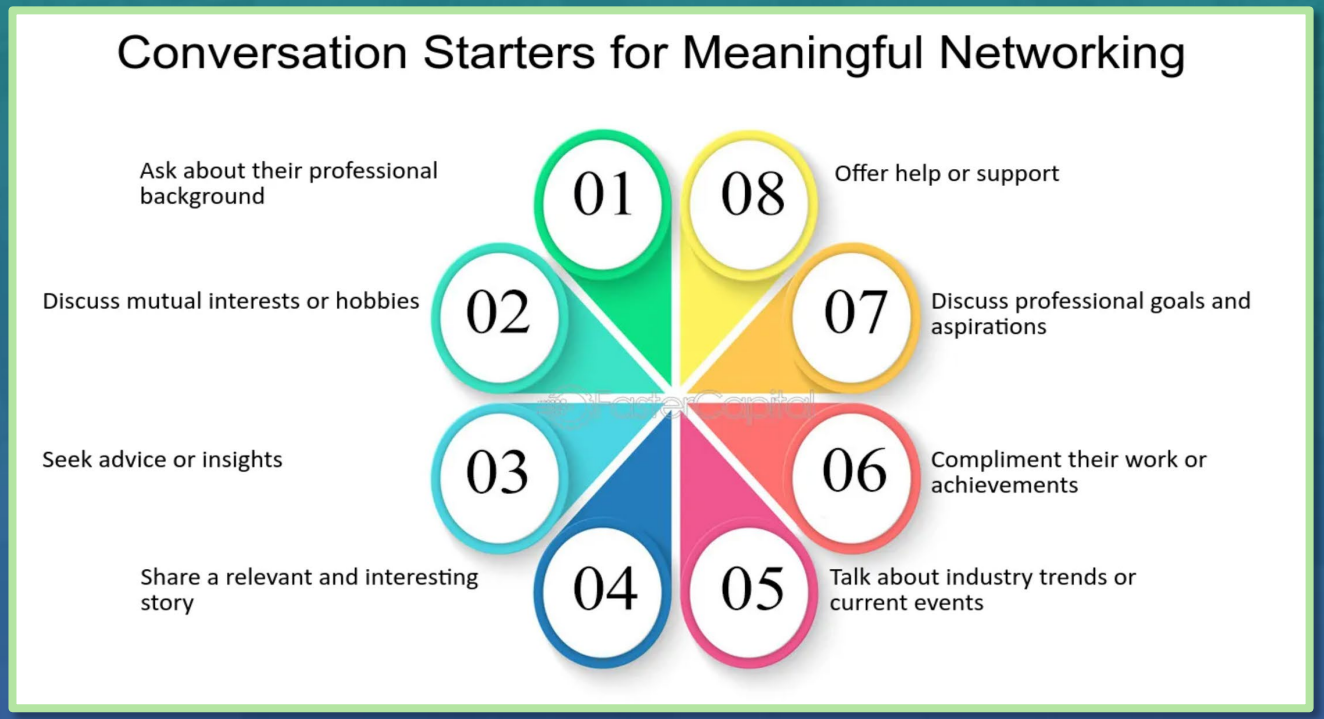


MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

8. Offer help or support

Networking is not just about what you can gain but also what you can give. Showing genuine interest in helping others can leave a lasting impression and build strong connections.

Offer your expertise, resources, or connections to someone who may benefit from them. By extending a helping hand, you establish yourself as a valuable and trustworthy contact. [9]



MEANINGFUL NETWORKING

FasterCapital's blog also offers additional tips, such as:

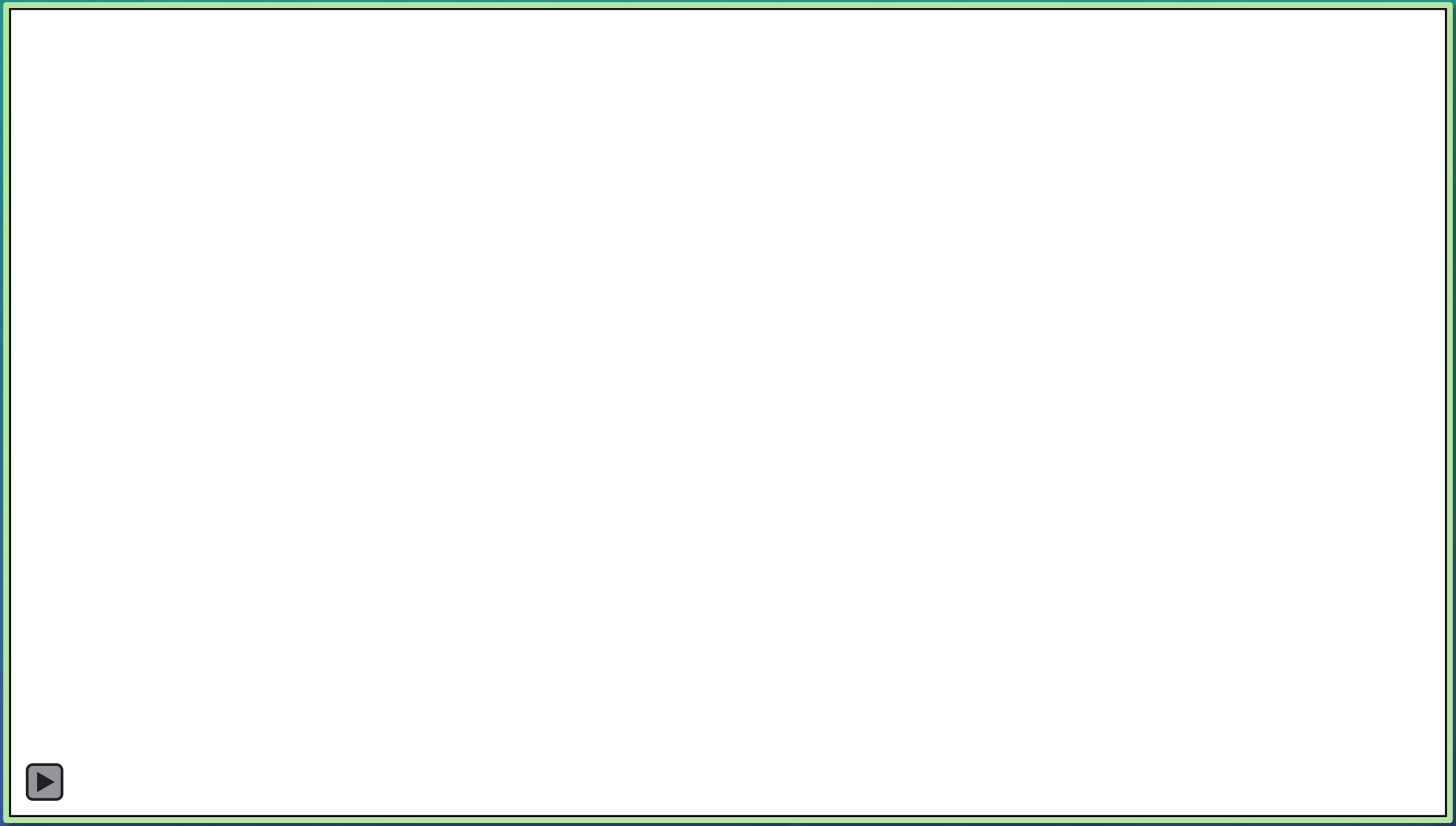
- Be a good listener: When engaging in conversations at networking events, actively listen to the other person instead of just waiting for your turn to speak. This shows genuine interest and allows you to respond more thoughtfully.

- Maintain eye contact: Eye contact is essential for building trust and showing that you are fully present in the conversation. Avoid distractions and give the other person your undivided attention.

- Follow up after the event: To solidify the connections you've made, make sure to follow up with the people you've met. Send a personalized email or connect on professional networking platforms to stay in touch and nurture the relationship further. [9]

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Career Opportunities



Sarah Andrus: For a Great Career, Be a Rebel! (TEDx) (13:38) [10]

ANY QUESTIONS?

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