

BUSINESS ACCELERATION GROUP

YOU'VE GOT IT IN THE BAG!

Networking Cheat Sheet

What is Networking? 🤝

It's about building genuine relationships – getting to know people, sharing your passions, and supporting each other. It's not just for adults; it starts now! And guess what? You're already a networking star in NCL!

Why YOU Should Care (College & Careers!)

- **College Apps** 🎓: Get the inside scoop and boost your application! Use your network to find current students at colleges you're interested in. Ask your family, friends, family friends, teachers and community members if they know anyone who attends or has attended those schools. Learning about campus life, professors, clubs, and even the best study spots directly from a student can give you a real edge!
- **Dream Internships** 💡: Explore your career interests! Tap into your network to find professionals in medicine, tech, art, or any field you're curious about. Ask your network if they know anyone working in these fields. Informational interviews with these professionals are a fantastic way to learn about their daily work, the skills they use, and how they got started.
- **Scholarships** 💰: Unlock hidden scholarship opportunities! Your network—guidance counselors, teachers, family friends, and community members—is a goldmine of information. Let them know you're looking for scholarship opportunities; they might know of some you didn't even know existed!
- **Future Careers** 👤💻🎮: Discover your path! Use your network to explore different fields and connect with mentors. Not sure what you want to do? Talk to people in your network about various professions and ask if they can connect you with professionals for informational interviews. Learning about different career paths firsthand might lead you to discover one you never considered!

Building Your Network: Where to Network!

- **Start with your inner circle:** 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦👩‍👩‍👧👨‍👩‍👧 Family, friends, teachers, mentors, and your incredible NCL sisters! Beyond your inner circle you could include family friends and community members.
- **Get involved and shine:** 🏠👤🏆 Clubs, volunteering, school events – be where your passions are!

“Ask a Pro” 📝 – Informational Interviews:

- **Reach out and explore:** Informational interviews (ask professionals about their exciting careers).
 - Focus on LEARNING, not just ASKING for a job and be respectful of their time.

Making a Good Impression: Spark Connections! ✨

- **Be genuinely interested:** ❤️ Ask questions, listen actively, and show you care.
- **Be yourself:** 😊 Authenticity is your superpower! Let your personality shine.
- **Be respectful and polite:** 👍 Good manners make a lasting impression.
- **Dress appropriately:** 🎩 Match your outfit to the occasion.

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Nurturing Your Network: Keep the Spark Alive! 🔥❤️📧 Connections matter most!

- **Follow up and say thanks:** 📧 Send thank-you notes (email, text, or handwritten – a mix is great!).
- **Stay in touch and share the light:** 🌟 Personalized messages, helpful resources, occasional check-ins.
- **Offer help:** 🌟 Networking is a two-way street, support others, and they'll support you!
- **Handwritten notes:** 📝 A thoughtful touch that makes you stand out.

"Level Up Your Presence": 📱

- **Online:** 📱 Keep your social media profiles positive and professional (it's part of your network!).
- **In Person:** 👤 Make eye contact, smile, and have good body language.

Keeping the Connection Strong ("Don't Ghost Your Network!"): 👤🚫

- **Follow Up!** Imagine meeting someone cool and then...nothing. Don't be a ghost!

Key Takeaways:

- Networking is a lifelong superpower – use it wisely!
- Staying in touch is the secret sauce of networking!

Networking Challenge: Connect & Sparkle!

- **College connection:** 🏫 Talk to a student at a college you're interested in.
- **Connect with a pro:** 📁 If you're curious about a career, reach out to someone in that field for an informational interview (even a quick chat!).
- **Reach out and explore:** 📧 Send a thank-you note to someone who has inspired you or offered you advice.

Bonus Tip: Don't be afraid to reach out! People are often happy to help, share their experiences and offer advice. You've got this! 👍

- **Informational Interview Sentence Starter:**
 - "I'm exploring different career options in [area], and I'd love to learn more about your experience in [field]."
- **Follow-Up Message Examples:**
 - "It was so great meeting you at [event]! I especially enjoyed our conversation about [topic]. I'd love to stay in touch."
 - "I wanted to thank you again for taking the time to speak with me about [field]. I found our conversation incredibly helpful."