

Sample script: Conversation check-in with a few students (*online chat example)

Prof: Hi everyone! So Chris (Chris, Sammie, Tamika), how are you doing today? 😊

Chris: fine! 👍

Prof: Which classes are going well?

Chris: biology, that's fine. [Other answers]

Prof: Which classes are you more concerned about?

Chris: well, Chemistry. Lab is hard! Those online simulations are really tough. And I'm not sure I really need it. I mean, I'm a biology major. I want to teach high school. Can I get out of this?

[They write / talk about what teaching is like]

Prof: You know, we are best in our jobs when we learn broadly in college. Your courses are all important.

Chris: what do you mean, it's important?

Prof: because you never know how things connect—biology and chemistry can cross-over. And plus, you may need it for practical reasons too. What if you need to teach bio-chem.? Or substitute? Or understand a Chemistry colleague who is in your science department?

Chris: I guess

Prof: Tell me, Chris, why were you asking about the importance?

Chris: Well, I'm really busy, so I don't want to waste time. I don't think the college gets that.

Prof: I can see that. So, what are others thinking?

Sammie: I agree, but I can see your point too. I mean, we are all busy but I can I had this class in communications that I hated—business writing—but it helped me with my emails for my job search.

[Conversation goes on]

Prof: so ask me, what do you think it means to be thinking broadly?

Chris: I don't know what that means.

Tamika: I think it's about being a good thinker, thinking on your feet.

Sammie: I think it's about putting pieces together.

Prof: Ok. Great. So, ask me, why did I ask?

Chris: Why did you ask? 😊

Prof: I was reading the other day that you all, your generation, will switch careers over five times and hold over ten jobs. I'll send you the link. I guess you can get lots of retraining, but how can you help yourself be ready now?

[Students discuss life readiness; Prof asks about previous work experiences, conceptions of "career" or other topics.]

Session ends soon, so the professor asks a final question

Prof: how was this conversation for you all?

[Each student responds, but there's just one "go around"]