

During the Virtual Workplace Experience II course, you and your classmates will have several opportunities to connect with mentors via Nepris, an online tool that connects industry professionals with classrooms across the country.

Below are meaningful steps to help you and your classmates prepare not only for live Nepris guest speaker interactions, but also for your culminating portfolio projects.

As always, behaving in a respectful manner when guest speakers arrive will not only make the guest feel more comfortable and allow them an opportunity to share their expertise, but also offer you and your classmates an opportunity to shine!

Strategies to engage with industry mentors via the Nepris platform:

1. *SLANT* – Show them you are interested and engaged by *Sitting* up, *Leaning* forward when they speak, *Asking* questions, *Nodding* your head when they respond, and *Taking* notes. All distractions should be put away including cell phones and side conversations with friends. Imagine you are the guest speaker and behave in a manner that you would expect from others when you speak to a group.
2. Write down the key information presented by the guest speaker. You may want to refer back to your notes at a later date. This is especially true when you work to complete a portfolio project and need resources for your bibliography.
3. Take notes on the speaker's style. Was he/she informative, funny, or engaging? Did they use hand gestures, voice inflection, or props? These notes can help you prepare for various portfolio projects.
4. Come up with good thought-provoking questions that probe deeper into the discussion as opposed to re-stating what the speaker has already said; write down your ideas during the presentation and ask them during the final Q & A or discussion period.