



# How to Seek a Research Assistantship:

Building a Relationship with your Professor

Creating meaningful connections with professors is an incredibly valuable skill that will benefit you in your present and future endeavors, such as seeking research assistant opportunities, requesting letters of recommendation, and simply interacting with others on a professional level. Here are 3 great habits that you can practice to build a good relationship with your professor:

## 1. Establish a classroom presence

Contribute to class discussions by coming prepared. If you weren't able to complete the entire assigned reading, make sure you've at least reviewed the conclusion/discussion. Write down a comment or question on a sticky-note and bring this to class. This gives you something to share, and it definitely helps if you're the type of learner who thoroughly processes material before immediately formulating new ideas.

## 2. Visit office hours

Challenge yourself to attend office hours at least once before the mid-semester. Professors are usually the busiest during the second half of the semester. Bring a question about something you found interesting in an article, video, or assignment from class. Connect class concepts to real-life experiences or other ideas you discovered outside of the classroom. Ask for specific feedback on an assignment that you're invested in.

## 3. Practice good email etiquette

If you see, hear, or experience something that reminds you of a concept explored in your professor's class, send it along with a brief comment. This is a great way to apply the concepts and theory that you've learned, it shows that you're engaged and that they're doing a good job, and it's thoughtful reason to reach out especially if it's been some time since you last took their course. Make sure your email is easy-to-read, concise, free of spelling and grammatical errors, and address your professor with proper titles.