

## **'Connect with a Specialist'**

### Purpose:

As you develop your solution, you are required to correspond with at least one specialist in a field relevant to your solution. This individual may be a business executive, activist, politician, professor, or anyone with credible knowledge in your field. It may be someone with whom you have no prior contact. We advise you to be ambitious and reach out to high-profile figures or organizations, granted that you have done your research beforehand!

We hope that you will be able to setup a brief phone call to ask questions relevant to your project. However, a well-documented email response will suffice if need be.

### **You will submit a 1-page document which compiles the following information:**

#### Interview Preparation:

- Why did you choose to reach out to this individual/organization?
- What information do you hope to get out of the meeting?
- Please list 5-10 specific questions you may ask during the meeting.
  - Questions might be focused around specific aspects of your team's idea, the expert's experience with the subject, or background information.

#### Interview Documentation:

- What were the key takeaways from your discussion?
- Did they bring up any ideas, problems, or existing solutions you had not considered?

#### Reflection:

- How might your project idea or implementation change after the meeting?
- As a result of this meeting, did you look for any new sources of information or reach out to other organizations?

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### **Tips and Etiquette**

- Make sure you have done your research before you reach out to any individual or organization. You do not want to waste anyone's valuable time!
- Send emails and setup communications during business hours
- Take good notes during your interview time
- Remember to say thank you!