

PREPARING FOR THE ACADEMIC JOB MARKET AS AN EARLY-CAREER HEALTH HUMANITIES SCHOLAR

Brianna C. August-Rae, PhD

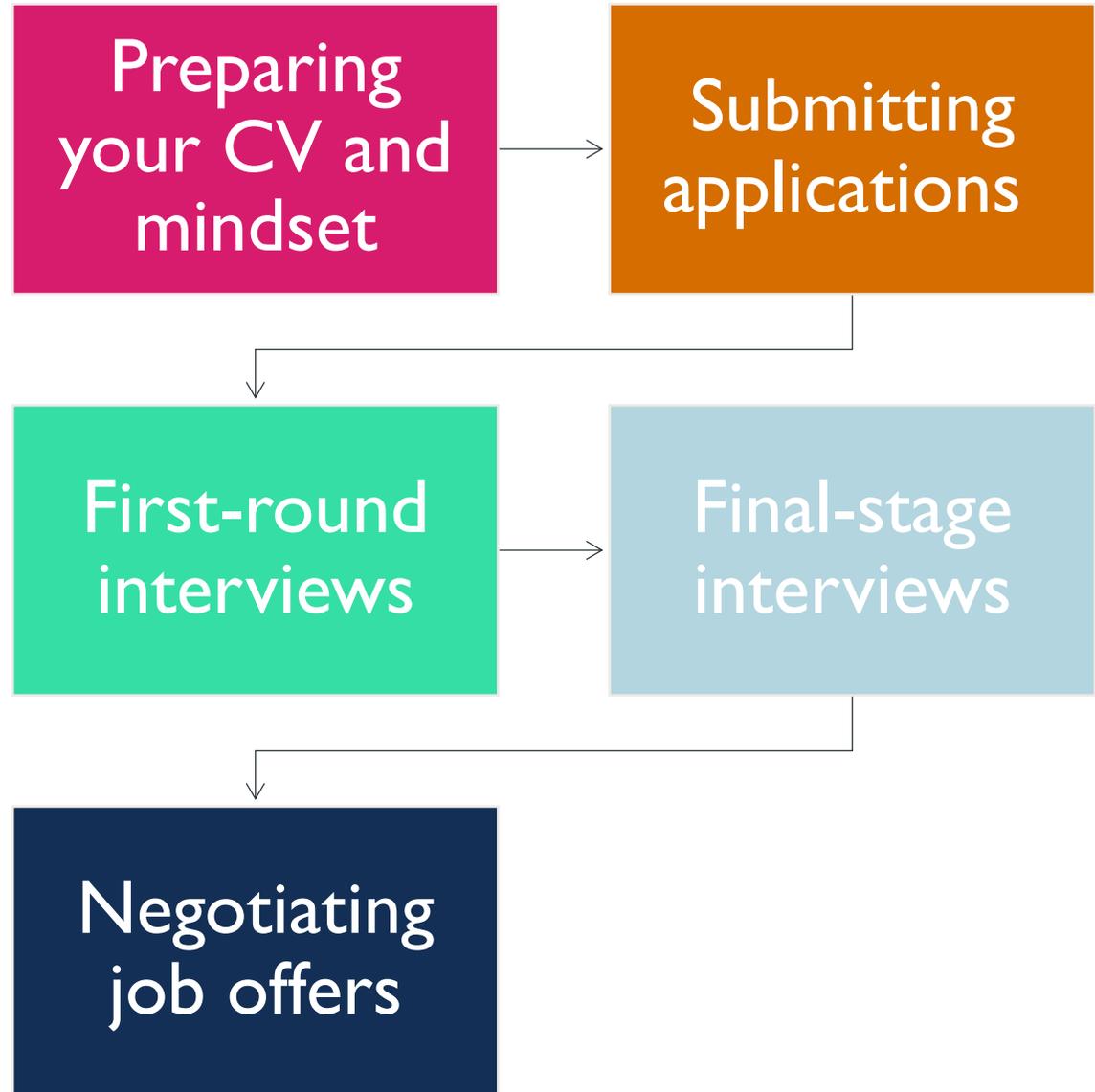
Assistant Professor, Department Of
Communication & Storytelling

East Tennessee State University



Health Humanities
CONSORTIUM

Academic job search process



My positionality

- Identities shape experience. I am speaking from my social location
- Connect and learn from diverse mentors and colleagues
- Recent doctoral graduate
- MA and PhD in Communication from University of South Florida
- Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication & Storytelling, East Tennessee State University





Start Preparing Early



Years 1-2 of grad school are for
exploration & reflection



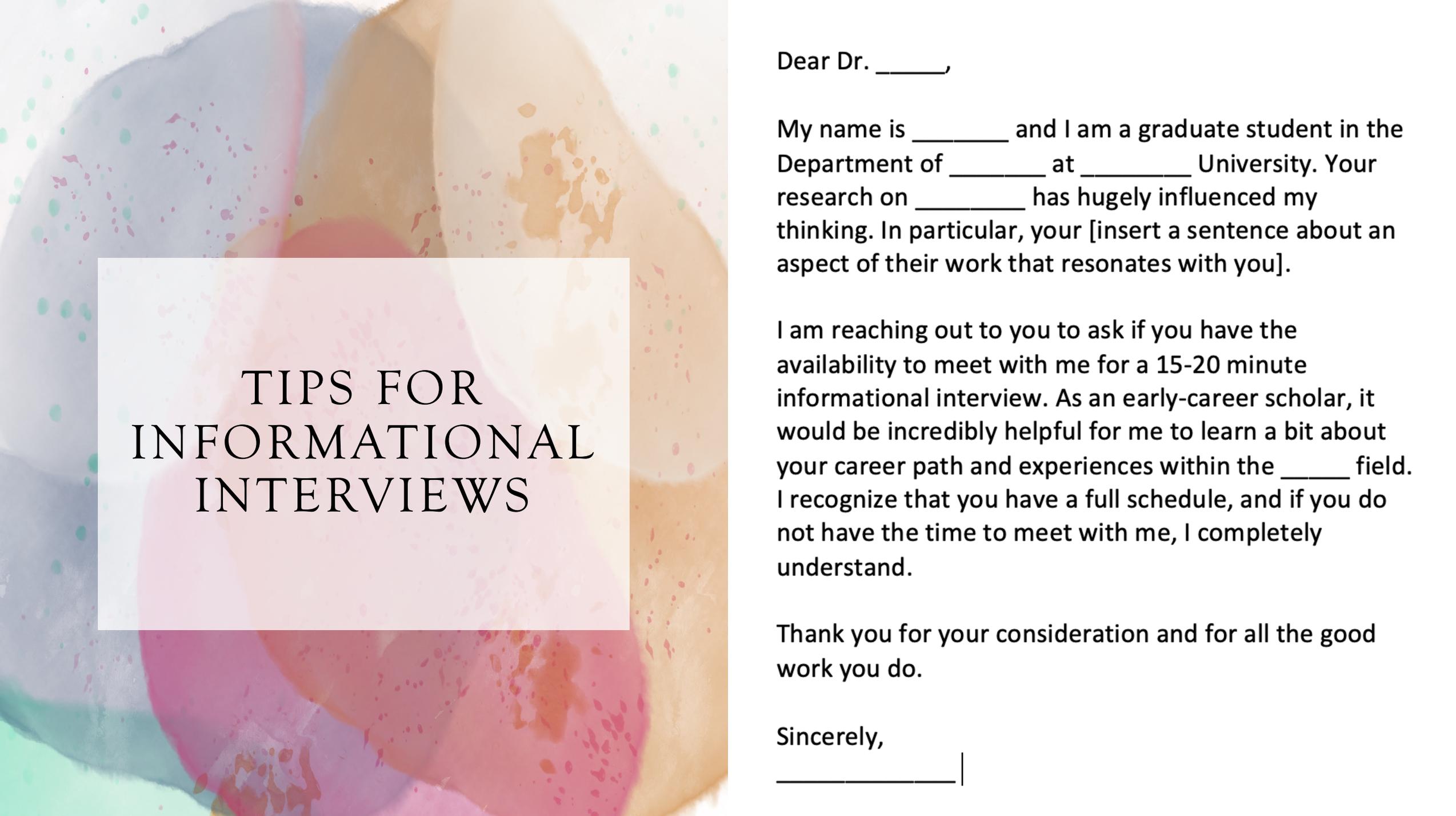
Try teaching, research, and service



Attend conferences



Conduct informational interviews



TIPS FOR INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

Dear Dr. _____,

My name is _____ and I am a graduate student in the Department of _____ at _____ University. Your research on _____ has hugely influenced my thinking. In particular, your [insert a sentence about an aspect of their work that resonates with you].

I am reaching out to you to ask if you have the availability to meet with me for a 15-20 minute informational interview. As an early-career scholar, it would be incredibly helpful for me to learn a bit about your career path and experiences within the _____ field. I recognize that you have a full schedule, and if you do not have the time to meet with me, I completely understand.

Thank you for your consideration and for all the good work you do.

Sincerely,

_____ |



Academic Positions – Terms to Know

- **Tenure:** An indefinite faculty appointment with high job security
- **Tenure-track positions:** Positions that offer a pathway to earning tenure
- Common tenure-earning positions
 - **Assistant Professor:** Early career professor (may be on a path towards tenure)
 - **Associate Professor:** Mid-career professor who has been granted tenure (if tenure-eligible)
 - **Full Professor:** Senior-level professor with tenure (if eligible)
- **Adjunct positions:** Part-time faculty hired on contractual basis
- **Postdoctoral research/fellowships:** Training-focused, term-limited positions for recent PhD graduates
- **Instructor and lecturer positions:** Teaching positions that may (not) require a terminal degree and may (not) be tenure-earning

Types of Academic Institutions

- **Research 1 (R1):** Highest research activity. High research productivity necessary for tenure
- **Research 2 (R2):** High research activity. Professors focus on teaching while also conducting research
- **Research 3 (R3):** Moderate research activity. Primary focus on teaching
- **Small Liberal Arts College (SLAC):** Primarily bachelors-granting colleges. Focus on teaching and small class sizes



Location?

WHAT KIND
OF CAREER
DO YOU
WANT?



**Teaching-focused,
research-focused, or
fair mix of both?**

**Types of learners
(undergrad,
graduate, medical,
nursing...)?**

Positioning Yourself for the Job You Want



Select an advisor & connect with mentors who support your career aims



Take classes in the areas you'd like to teach

If you want a job
focused on
teaching
undergraduates...



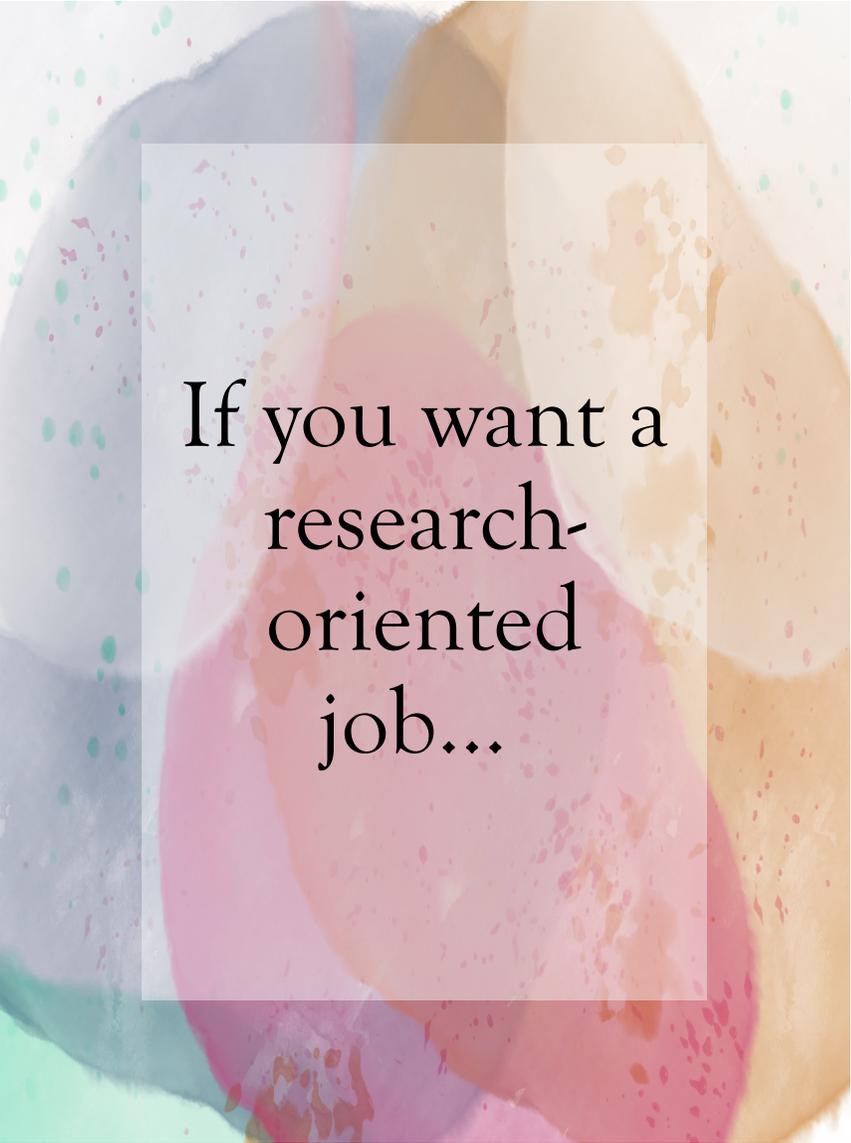
Teach classes you want to
teach at your future job



Collect evidence of your
teaching effectiveness



Apply for graduate teaching
awards



If you want a
research-
oriented
job...

Publishing will be important

- Remember, 1 project can lead to multiple publications
- Look out for calls for journal special issues and edited book collections
- Work as an RA or collaborate with a team

Apply for grants

- Your university may offer internal grants

**Start preparing
early!**



Read job calls before you finish coursework. Find out what skills are in-demand!



Ask other grad students & recent grads about their job search experiences



Gain interdisciplinary skills by earning a graduate certificate