7 OFFICE HOUR CONVERSATION STARTERS

1 INTRODUCE YOURSELF
Faculty enjoy getting to know you. Why are you interested in the course? Have you previously studied the subject? What are you excited about learning in the course?

2 SHARE A STRUGGLE
Are you struggling with something? For example, class participation, a concept, or keeping up with readings? Ask for tips/resources to address your challenge.

3 ASK FOR BEST PRACTICES
Ask what successful students have done to understand the material and excel. Focus on the learning. Do NOT ask how to get an A.

4 RESEARCH OPTIONS
Are you looking for an internship or research in the field? Share your specific goals and interests. Your professor may have useful advice and will enjoy sharing his/her research.

5 DISAGREE
Is there a point in lecture or reading you disagree with? Are things different in other countries you’ve studied? Politely engage your professor in a debate.

6 CLARIFY
Confused about your grade or the requirements for an assignment? Unsure about the policies on citation or group work? Ask questions.

7 INCLUDE CURRENT EVENTS
Is this topic in the news? Did you read relevant research? Discuss other examples to deepen your learning.