Research and Development

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How to make work fun?
How to make work fun?

Enjoy the topic.
Enjoy the process.

Process

Introducing yourself
Making a web page
Writing papers
Designing explanations
Making talks
Giving talks
Hosting visitors
Process

Make yourself comfortable.
Focus on the parts of things you enjoy.

How I was able to finish writing my thesis

Really really really loud dance music on headphones.

One cup of coffee per paragraph.

Never deleting anything.
Let’s start with introductions

Introductions
Get you set to have a good relationship with somebody.
Example: at the beach

Is this person fun to chat with?
- Will this person have good tips (about sunscreen, equipment) to make visits more enjoyable?
- Can we make fun of other beachgoers?
- Can we talk about books, movies, music?

Can I exchange favors with this person?
- Watching our stuff when one goes swimming?
- Doing our backs?

Example: at the beach

A: That’s an awesome rolling cooler.
B: Yeah, I got sick of carrying the beer.
A: I’m sick of carrying the beer too. That cooler looks great.
B: Yeah, you like the beach, you start getting the equipment for it.
A: Yeah, like that guy down there with the tent, the windscreen, the three umbrellas and the gourmet picnic.
B: There’s some style.
A: I’m Matthew.
B: I’m Chris.
How about academia?

How can we learn from each other?
- Have I read this person’s work?
- Should I read this person’s work?
- Have they read mine? Should they?
- What are we both thinking about?

How might we work together?
- What kinds of professional events might draw us together in the future?
- Does our practical expertise complement each other?

Non-examples.

At SIGGRAPH.

A: Hi, I’m Jessica Hodgins from CMU.
B: Hi, I’m Joe. I do in computer graphics.
Key

First name and last name.
Institution and background.
Interest.

One phrase each.
Be as specific as necessary.

Specificity

I’m a phd student at Rutgers.
I’m a second year in the computer science department.
I’m just starting to explore research in the multisensory computation lab.
Interest

– I’m really interested in the possibility of a rigorous science of human thought.
– I think it’ll be really cool when all your data from your whole life is available electronically everywhere you go.
– I’m working on machine learning techniques for estimating probability distributions over possible human motions.
– I’m following up on Zoran Popovic and Aaron Hertzmann’s work at SIGGRAPH this summer.

Things it’s OK to ask

What shall I call you?
Do you have a minute to talk?
  – A generous speaker will give you the benefit of the doubt here.

Ask a backup question if things get slow.
Your responsibilities

Knowing the kinds of answers you might expect.

Being prepared for them.