

CMG Interview Protocol

This research is being conducted by the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning to understand the influence of community involvement on your academic, personal and civic development.

During your time at IUPUI you may have had a number of educational opportunities to be **involved with the community**, either through coursework or extra-curricular activities. Examples of involvement with the community may include *volunteer community service, political activities, service-learning or other community-based experiential learning experiences, one-time service projects, and service activities through a religious organization or student club*. We are interested in knowing what types of community activities students are involved in, what motivates them, and how you feel your IUPUI education has prepared you for active citizenship.

1. There are many ways to be active in your community, but schedules sometimes prevent people from being involved. In the past 12 months, have you had the opportunity to participate in any of the following activities? If so, how often?
 - Volunteering or community service (ex: working at the Humane Society)
Yes No
If Yes, about how often?
 - a. once or twice during the past 12 months
 - b. three to ten times during the past 12 months
 - c. more than ten times during the past 12 months
 - Political involvement (ex: voting; working with a political group or official)
Yes No
If Yes, about how often?
 - d. once or twice during the past 12 months
 - e. three to ten times during the past 12 months
 - f. more than ten times during the past 12 months
 - Advocating for social change (ex: writing a letter to a public official about a cause you care about; being an active member of a group that lobbies for legislative change; avoiding buying something because of the social or political values of the company)
Yes No
If Yes, about how often?
 - g. once or twice during the past 12 months
 - h. three to ten times during the past 12 months
 - i. more than ten times during the past 12 months
2. For each of the above examples: Tell me a little bit about why you were involved in these activities? (motivation, not opinion about a particular cause)

Was there anything else that motivated you to do these activities?

3. There are lots of reasons why people continue to be active in their community. For example, they may want to explore options for their career, build their resume, or meet new people. How important are these reasons for you being involved in the community in the future (before you graduate)? Are there other reasons that keep you motivated to continue being involved?
4. People define themselves in a variety of ways, in terms of what is most important to how they see themselves. For some people family is most important, for others it may be their religion, their career, their business, or their involvement in their community. What do you see as the most important things that define who you are, and why?
5. Do you see yourself being involved in community activities in the future (after you graduate)? Why? What types of activities might you be involved in?
6. How do you think your college education and experiences at IUPUI have prepared you, shaped your views, or influenced your intentions to be involved in these types of activities in the future?

Problem Situation

Imagine that Indiana is hit by a series of major tornados, floods or another natural or man-made disaster (similar to the devastation seen with Hurricane Katrina). You and your family all survive and your residence is not destroyed, but many other people have died or are displaced, and many homes, businesses, and schools are destroyed. There is a general sense of panic in the community. The mayor of your community is able to address the public through radio and television and has asked that people join together in this time of need. Some of the ways that people can help each other include:

- donating money, food, or clothing
- helping a neighbor in need
- participating in neighborhood cleanup
- volunteering through a religious organization or community agency

In addition, the mayor of your community sets up a variety of committees to help deal with the problems and issues generated by the disaster, such as:

- business development
- construction
- communication and technology
- education
- environmental impacts
- heritage preservation (music, museums, monuments, historic buildings, etc.)
- homelessness
- medical care
- mental health issues
- violence and crime

Given this community crisis, and reflecting back on your experiences and classes at IUPUI, please respond to each of the following questions.

1. Do you think you would choose to be a part of one of these committees? If “No,” why not? If “Maybe” or “Yes,” which one would you likely choose and why?
2. If you ended up volunteering a lot in response to this disaster, would your close friends be surprised by your high level of involvement? Why or why not? (Probe)
3. How has your IUPUI education and experience influenced your decision as to whether or not you would get involved?
4. How has your IUPUI education and experience contributed to the knowledge and skills that might be useful in dealing with this community crisis or working on one of these task force groups?
5. How has your IUPUI education and experience increased your knowledge of ways to become involved in the community, such as through community organizations and volunteer opportunities?
6. How do your past experiences in the community convince you that you can be effective working with people who differ from you? In what ways have your experiences as a college student contributed to your ability to work with people from different backgrounds?
7. Lots of community problems are difficult to address. In what ways do your past experiences in the community lead you to think that you could contribute in a meaningful way to assisting the community after this disaster?
8. What types of experiences have you had at IUPUI that lead you to feel confident that you could contribute and make a difference?