

ONE COMMUNITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY

VIEWING GUIDE

ABOUT ROADTRIP NATION

For 20 years, Roadtrip Nation has made it our mission to help individuals pursue fulfilling careers aligned to their interests and strengths. We show people how to turn the things they like into careers they love—and we do it with the most powerful of tools: personal stories. We sit down with professionals from all walks of life and ask them honest questions about their struggles and successes. These conversations then form the foundation of our career resources, which introduce people to new paths, and illustrate how to pursue them.

ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY

If you've been incarcerated—or impacted by the carceral system—you know that when it comes to tackling reentry, one opportunity can make all the difference. We want to help you find that opportunity.

Through stories from others who've been in your shoes, [Our Community, Our Opportunity](#) will show you what's possible for your future—and get you connected to the resources and tools you need to thrive.

At the heart of the site are video interviews with people who have either been directly impacted by incarceration, or are working in spaces around incarceration. Hopefully you'll see yourself in some of these conversations—and the guidance and advice revealed in these videos will help you through anything you're currently dealing with, so you can start defining your own road forward.





WHO SHOULD USE THIS VIEWING GUIDE?

This guide is a great way to connect to important themes and materials found throughout [Our Community, Our Opportunity](#), in order to help people along their journey of career exploration and self-discovery.

The interviews and questions in this guide are designed to be completed by anyone that connects to this material—along with their mentors, teachers, professors, family members, or anyone in a supporting role—in order to spark meaningful conversations about future aspirations and how to achieve them. This guide may prove especially useful to those who've been formerly incarcerated, as well as their family or supporters.

HOW TO USE THIS VIEWING GUIDE

This viewing guide is designed to be used as you watch the video interviews on Our Community, Our Opportunity. Each set of questions is tied to particular interview. You can follow the links in this guide to view each interview or use the site's "Search" function in the top right corner to search for each leader's name. (Look for the magnifying glass!)

When you get to each leader's page, select the video titled "Interview" to watch the leader's full-length interview. Then, use the viewing guide questions to start your self-exploration and reflection.

1. Tamra talks about the importance of values. List the top 3 values that guide your life.

2. A peer network is one of the support systems that the Women’s Bean Project provides to its participants. Are there people in your life that support your dreams? Who are they, and how do they show you their support?

3. Tamra feels a responsibility to use her unique skills and experiences to give back to her community. In what ways can you give back to your community? List three things you have done, or three things you would like to do in the future, to make this possible.

- 1.** Andrew talks about “marrying” different things he’s interested in. Combining your interests is a great way to think outside of the box when it comes to career exploration. What are two interests of yours that seem very different from each other? What draws you to each of those interests? Can you think of any jobs or industries that might allow you to combine both interests?

- 2.** Andrew points out that it can be easy to “other” people, and think, “That’s them, and that could never be anything like me.” But he’s also seen that sharing stories can help people get past “othering” and see that we’re all just people. What parts of your story would you want to share with the world to help them better understand you and your experiences?

- 3.** Andrew believes that mindset change is a powerful thing. He wants everyone to shift their mindset from, “My past is my liability,” to, “My life experience can be an asset to me because I’ve pushed through some hard stuff.” How have your past experiences become an asset to your current self?

- 1.** Cassi mentions that change can come just from having conversations. Talk about a time in your life when you had a conversation with someone that felt particularly life-changing: What did you learn from the other person? What do you feel they learned from you?

- 2.** Misconceptions are something that a lot of people have to face. Have you ever held a misconception about someone that you later realized wasn't true? Have you ever had someone judge you before they got to know you? How did each of these experiences make you feel?

- 3.** Cassi is invested in making sure her employees feel supported at work. How can your employer (current or future) help you be successful at work?

- 1.** Hector says, “With every misfortune, there is a blessing.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

- 2.** Hector believes setbacks can help us push forward—but not everyone shares his positive view of failure! What messages does society send to you about failure? Why do you think we’re programmed to be afraid of failure?

- 3.** Talk about a time when you’ve experienced setbacks or even failures. What did you learn? How can you reframe that as a positive experience?

- 4.** According to Hector, “We fear what we don’t understand.” Have you experienced a time when you were afraid of something simply because you didn’t understand it? How did you push past that fear?

- 1.** Alex helps organizations create a more inclusive environment. The foundation of her work is all about helping people. When you think about your dream job, what sort of “foundation” would you like it to have? (Some example foundations might be: “helping people,” “working with others,” “being creative,” “problem solving,” or “being physically active.” Your foundation can be anything that lights you up!)

- 2.** How has diversity, equity, and inclusion played a role in your life?

- 3.** One of Alex’s strengths is her thoughtfulness, which has played a big part in her life’s work. What are some of your qualities or strengths that could play a role in your current or future job?

- 1.** Jason talks about the difficulties of people viewing him as “his worst mistake.” Do you feel like formerly incarcerated people often face this stereotype? What are the challenges that come along with that?

- 2.** What accomplishments are you most proud of?

- 3.** If you were to talk to a group of high school students, what advice would you give them?

- 4.** Jason believes “our dreams are driven by what we can see and experience.” What does this mean to you?

- 5.** How has forgiveness played a role in your life?

- 1.** Molly had self-doubt around being able to complete the Last Mile program. Have there been times in your life when you quit something because it was too hard? How did self-doubt play into that? If you could go back in time, what kind of pep talk would you give yourself to get through that self-doubt?

- 2.** The Last Mile program gave Molly a sense of belonging and community. What do you have in your life that makes you feel that way? If you can't currently think of an example, where could you look to find it?

- 3.** Molly's mentality of, "If I can do this, so can you," helps guide her. Do you have a motto or saying that helps you get through tough times?

- 1.** Matt talks about the barriers to successful reentries, like lack of transportation and financial burdens. Did you, or anyone you know, experience challenges during reentry? How did you/they get through them?

- 2.** Matt used to believe that if he worked hard enough, he would be able to achieve what he wanted. But he now realizes that was a common misconception about work—because there are many other factors involved in finding success! What is a misconception you have experienced about finding a job or starting a career?

1. Ty suggests that if someone wants to help you, you should allow them to help. Do you have an easy time or a hard time accepting help from others? Explain why.

2. Second chances can show up unexpectedly. When was a time you were given a second chance, and how did you benefit from it?

- 1.** Joseph has held several jobs throughout his career—but as a young adult, he didn't know any of these jobs even existed! Is there a job, career, or industry that you've only recently learned about, or didn't know existed a few years ago?

- 2.** When it comes to hiring employees, Joseph looks for one thing: People who want to be successful. Do you feel like you have that drive to be successful at whatever you do? If you were applying for a job or starting a new role, how would you demonstrate that drive to your hiring manager or your future employer?

- 3.** What does it look like and feel like to you when you are personally thriving? What about professionally thriving?
