

6 Appendix: List of Questions

There are more questions here than there are class meetings for the typical course. The first 50 questions are from Penn State University Lecturer Heather Holleman. The remaining questions are from the author, with some input from his students, Naval Academy Midshipmen.

1. What is the most interesting course you have ever taken in school?
2. What is your favorite quotation?
3. What is one item you might keep forever?
4. What were you known for in high school? Did you have any nicknames?
5. If you could have witnessed any event in sports history, what would it be?
6. What is something you consider beautiful?
7. What was your first CD or song you played over and over again?
8. What accomplishment are you most proud of?
9. If you could be an apprentice to any person, living or deceased, from whom would you want to learn?
10. What are three things that make you happy?
11. What's one movie you think everyone should see? What's a movie you think nobody should see?
12. Who inspires you?
13. What's one thing you want to do before you die?
14. Get in groups of three people. What's the most bizarre thing you have in common?
15. Whenever you are having a bad day, what is the best thing you can do to help cheer yourself up?
16. Have you ever experienced something unexplainable or supernatural?
17. What was your best Halloween costume?
18. What's the last item you purchased?
19. What was the last thing you Googled?
20. What YouTube video do you watch over and over?
21. What's the kindest act you've ever witnessed?
22. Tell us one thing you know you do well (a talent?) and one thing you know you cannot do.
23. What is your favorite way to procrastinate?
24. What is your favorite home-cooked meal?
25. What was your favorite childhood toy?
26. What do you do other than study? What clubs are you involved in?
27. What was your first job?
28. Have you met a famous person? Who?
29. What's the story behind your name?
30. Do you believe in anything that most people might not believe in?
31. I wish everyone would...
32. What's the best sound effect you can make?
33. What's the funniest thing you did as a kid that people still talk about today?
34. What idea do you think is worth arguing about?
35. Tell us something quirky about you.
36. For what reason do others often seek your help or input?
37. Share your guilty pleasure (something you enjoy that embarrasses you—like watching Disney Channel)?
38. What is one thing that's important for others to know about you?
39. Do you still do anything today that you also loved to do as a child?
40. Do you have any daily rituals?

41. What is the most misunderstood word you can think of?
42. What is the first book you remember changing you somehow?
43. Pass on one piece of wisdom to the class.
44. Do you have an irrational fear or strange addiction? Or something that started in college?
45. What's been the most surprising thing about college?
46. What is your biggest pet peeve?
47. Tell us about any animal friends you have.
48. What did you dream of becoming when you were younger?
49. What's something new you've learned this week?
50. What thought keeps you up at night?
51. What was your favorite thing about last summer?
52. Did you have a back-up plan to USNA? What was it?
53. Who would be your best man / maid of honor?
54. At this point, how many years will you serve post-commissioning?
55. How many times did you take the ACT / SAT?
56. Describe a run-in with law enforcement or the USNA conduct system.
57. How much sleep did you get in the last 24 hours?
58. What is your superpower?
59. What is your heritage? (for example, my grandparents were from Mexico on my mother's side, and descendants of slaves on my father's side.)
60. What is your birth order?
61. (adapted from 11.) What's one Forrestal Lecture you think everyone should see?
62. What is the most memorable reaction you've had to being in uniform?
63. What is your earliest/favorite/funniest childhood memory?
64. What is one thing you are passionate about?
65. What is a pressing problem at USNA? If you could change one thing, what would it be?
66. Who is your favorite musical artist?
67. What is your favorite ice cream?
68. What topic was your funniest squad meal conversation about?
69. Where do you want to live?
70. What is your service assignment preference?
71. What is the craziest thing a teacher has ever done in the classroom?
72. What is the furthest you have traveled from home? What is the favorite place you have traveled?
73. What is the most important lesson you have learned at the Academy?
74. What are you most looking forward to in the next five years?
75. What is something you learned to do the hard way?
76. What is your favorite thing to do when you go home?
77. What was your favorite TV show growing up?
78. Where did your initial interest in the Naval Academy come from?
79. Tell us your most awkward dating story, or your most embarrassing story.
80. Do you have a favorite sport to watch? Your favorite college football team other than Navy?
81. What is your hidden talent?