

Sample Opening Questions for Virtual Events

At IGNITE Worldwide Events, volunteers have a chance to learn more about IGNITE Students by engaging in a question/answer conversation approach. Here are some examples of opening questions to help you get started in preparing for your event..

Question 1

Q: What does STEM stand for?

A: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Question 2

Q: Women make up half of the total U.S. college-educated workforce. What percentage of the science and engineering workforce do women make up?

A: Only 28% That means men hold 72% of science and engineering jobs. That needs to change!

Question 3

Q: Is STEM a good fit for you? From the list, please select all of the things that interest you:

- Art
- Sports
- Music
- Learning
- Creating things
- Traveling

A: This is great, because every single one of these are passions you can pursue by choosing a STEM career!

Question 4

Q: What do people who work in STEM do? You can select as many as you think apply:

- Work with other people
- Share ideas
- Solve problems
- Ask questions
- Write
- Create art
- Help people

A: All of these are things people working in STEM might do every day!

Question 5

Q: Even if you don't have a computer science job, there are a lot of other jobs that use computer science skills. Which of these fields do you think use computer science? You can select as many as you think apply.

- Creative Arts
- Business
- Marketing
- Healthcare/Medicine
- Entertainment/Movies/Music
- Environmental Protection

A: All of them! All of these fields use computer science skills. Taking AP Computer Science Principles, for example, can open the door to 48 college majors and 130 careers, from Air Traffic Controllers to Veterinarians and Wildlife Technicians! STEM is everywhere and in everything we do, so learning STEM skills is important to whatever job you have. (Source: [College Board](#))

Question 6

Q: We want to learn about you! From the list, please select all of the things that you like to do. (Multiple answers accepted):

- solve problems
- create art
- invent new things
- help people
- build or organize things
- meet new people

A: Wow - this is so exciting! If you checked off one of these interests, then a career in STEM is a good fit for you. Even if you did not check off anything, there are so many other skills that are important in STEM jobs. This includes solving problems, organizing things, being artistic and inventive, helping others, writing, teaching others, tinkering with tools and more!

Question 7

Q: In 2021, the average American hourly wage was about \$28 per hour. How much do you think people in computer occupations earned?

A: Around \$48 per hour - that's 1.7 times the average American salary! And Engineers earned around \$50 per hour! (Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))

Question 8

Q: How many people all around the world do you think use the internet?

A: More than 5 billion! And 5.34 billion people use mobile phones and 4.7 billion use social media. That's a lot of people! No wonder STEM careers are the fastest growing careers in the world. (Source: [DataReportal Digital 2022 July Global Statshot Report](#))

Question 9

Q: In 2018, 50 thousand students graduated college with a computer science degree. How many job openings do you think there were in computer science that year?

A: 130,000 job openings! That's right, nearly 3 times the number of graduates.

Question 10

Q: By 2028 (when some of you might be graduating) there are expected to be 4 million computing-related job openings. What percentage will college graduates be able to fill?

A: Only 19%! There are way more technology jobs available than there are people to fill them!

Question 11

Q: What percentage of engineers do you think are women?

A: 13%. On top of this, only 4.6% are women of color.

Question 12

Q: 25 years ago, 37% of computer science graduates were women. What percentage of women were computer science graduates in 2019?

A: 26%. Unfortunately, this number has actually decreased over time. Since 1995, fewer women are earning degrees in computer science. Of that 26%, only 9% are women of color.

IGNITE Events change students' lives! [Learn more about IGNITE Worldwide.](#)

The IGNITE Worldwide Program is intentionally designed to create a space for girls and gender-diverse students to learn about STEM topics, skills, and careers and allow them to see themselves represented in STEM. Many IGNITE Students come from BIPOC communities, and many attend Title 1 Schools, which is a federal education program that supports low-income students. We encourage panelists and volunteers who can personally identify with IGNITE Students. If you have questions or concerns about volunteer opportunities with IGNITE, please reach out to us at contactus@ignite-worldwide.org.