

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO REACHING OUT

BETTER FIRST CONVERSATIONS.

Six pages about saying hello, asking clearly, working with uncertainty and respecting the other person. No manipulation, no growth hack, no fake networking personality.

A LITTLE STRUCTURE. A LOT MORE HUMANITY.

Use the templates, skip the scripts you dislike, and make the message sound like you. The goal is not a guaranteed reply. It is a message worth considering.

FREE TO READ AND SHARE / SAHIL TAYAL

01 / REPLACE THE PITCH FOG

THE THREE-PART MESSAGE

A first contact is not a biography or a performance. Three clear ingredients are often enough.

01 - THE REASON

Name the actual topic: a project, a question, a workshop, a piece of work that moved you, or a hello.

02 - THE CONTEXT

Add one or two details that make your request intelligible. Relevant links are helpful; entire life histories rarely are.

03 - THE INVITATION

Ask a specific, optional question. Make the smallest useful next step easy: a short reply, a suggestion, or a possible conversation.

RULE OF THUMB: CLARITY CAN BE KINDNESS.

02 / ADAPT, DO NOT COPY

THREE ENTRY POINTS

These examples are scaffolds. Rewrite them with the truth of your situation.

A CREATIVE PROJECT

Hi Sahil, I saw your interactive websites and am working on a small [type] project for [audience]. The central challenge is [problem]. Would you be open to discussing whether a collaboration makes sense? Here is one link: [URL].

A RESEARCH QUESTION

Hello Sahil, your Identity-Action Gap project raised a question for me: [question]. In my own work, I have noticed [concrete observation]. I would be interested in exchanging perspectives if the subject overlaps with your current interests.

AN ORDINARY HELLO

Hi Sahil, I came across your writing on [topic]. I appreciated [specific detail] because it made me reconsider [assumption]. No particular request - I just wanted to say thanks and wish you well.

A MESSAGE NEEDS CONTEXT, NOT ARTIFICIAL INTIMACY.

03 / LESS IMPRESSING

BEFORE / AFTER

Notice how a revised message makes a different demand on the reader.

VAGUE

"Hi, please check my idea and tell me what you think."

MORE REPLYABLE

"I have a two-page concept for a behaviour-focused learning site. Does this fit your creative studio work? If yes, may I send a link?"

OVERLOADED

"I need 90 minutes of your time to explain my entire vision."

MORE RESPECTFUL

"I can send a five-sentence outline first. If the topic is interesting, we can see whether a longer conversation would be worthwhile."

ENTITLED

"I followed up twice. I really need an answer."

MORE CONSIDERATE

"Following up once in case this was missed. No worries if it is not a fit; I will not keep nudging."

04 / RELATIONSHIPS HAVE TWO SIDES

RECIPROCITY & BOUNDARIES

A good first message gives the recipient room to remain a real person.

NO MIND-READING

A delay is observable; a hidden motive is usually not. A lack of response can mean many things. You still get to choose where you invest your energy.

DO NOT MANUFACTURE URGENCY

Name real constraints. Avoid creating false pressure or implying that a stranger owes time, labour or attention.

MAKE NO YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Rejection and non-availability are ordinary outcomes, not a verdict on your human worth or the recipient's character.

PROTECT SENSITIVE DETAILS

An initial message rarely needs medical, financial, identifying or other highly personal information. Send the minimum needed to begin.

CONTINUED READING

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05 / A MESSAGE WORTH SENDING

THE MINI WORKSHEET

Answer these privately or just use the Signal Desk composer.

WHAT AM I WRITING ABOUT?

One sentence about the topic.

WHAT DOES THE OTHER PERSON NEED TO KNOW?

The briefest useful context, evidence or link.

WHAT EXACTLY AM I INVITING THEM TO DO?

One reversible next step; easy to decline.

HAVE I LEFT ROOM FOR AUTONOMY?

Would I still respect them if they could not help?

BEGIN A CONVERSATION / CONTACT.SAHILVERSE.ONLINE

More worlds: sahiltayal.com | identityaction.sahiltayal.com