**School**: Stanford

**Prompt**: What piece of advice would you share with your younger self? Describe what experience or realization led you to this understanding.

**Word limit**: 50 to 150 words

# Ideas

* Focus on people
* You can never overestimate how much you will learn from others, especially people you’ve just met.
* Other people are spending the same amount of time as you but doing other things.
* You can gain all the knowledge they have accumulated in such a shot span of time by talking to others.
* A good way to meet people is by solving problems. Everyone has problems. Everyone’s lives could be improved, some more/easier than others.
* This way you not only improve the world but you learn :/
* Focus on the vulnerable, focus on the overlooked problems that we face as a society. We don’t need another entrepreneur that jump onto the hype of whatever the new cool topic is. We need people that address the challenging problem that stop our society from progressing and becoming better for all / more equitable? Bla bla bla
* Knowledge of new technologies should be applied in a focused manner in places that depend on it.

# New Ideas

* The people that I’ve met have shown me that I should think unconventionally in terms of my career. I wanted to be an entrepreneur or a programmer, but at the time I didn’t know that you can do many many more things in your lifetime. The most interesting people I’ve met did not adhere to any career in particular and did not follow a traditional path.
* I learned about the importance of people. Not that I didn’t think people were important before, but I didn’t realyze at the time how much impact any single individual can have on your life.
* People have their own interests, activities and friends. They spend their lifetime devoting themselves to these. Meeting someone allows you to absorb so much of the information they’ve acquired throughout their lives in such a short span of time.
* This is especially true when the people you meet have diverse backgrounds, because it is more likely that their knowledge and interests intersect less, meaning that your mind is going to be opened even more.

# Version 1

“Appreciate the importance of people. The sooner you do so, the sooner you’ll start growing at speed orders of magnitude larger.”

It is not that 2 or 3 years ago I didn’t think people were important, but I didn’t realize how much impact any single individual can have on my life.

People devote their lives to their interests, activities, and friends. When I meet someone new, I absorb so much of the information they’ve acquired throughout their life in such a short span of time. This is especially true when I meet someone whose background is diverse from mine, for the simple reason that our knowledge and interests intersect less, meaning that the rate of learning and understanding of the different situations around the world rises exponentially.

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Meeting new people has already had a clear impact on my career decisions. I used to want to be a programmer, perhaps a business owner, but the most interesting people I’ve met so far have pushed me to think beyond that. They did not adhere to any career in particular and did not follow a traditional path. They have moved between different positions in management, technology, finance, and government.

# Version 2 (CHOSEN)

“Don’t jump onto the hype train every time a new technology comes around.”

Two years ago, I was really passionate about problem-solving and technology, but I still assumed that I had to apply the latest technology to solve every issue.

Working at a VC firm showed me, however, that the best solutions don’t require the greatest and latest technology. Take construction tech startups: doubling productivity is not at all rare, and the “miraculous” software at work is chat apps using decades-old technology adapted correctly to the requirements of a construction site.

“Most often the best solutions consist of using the simplest, and likely older, technology in the appropriate way for a specific industry and for a specific purpose. So talk to people with extensive industry experience and a clear understanding of the problems the industry has, as well as all the stakeholders involved.”