



Frequently Asked Questions



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1. What is the purpose of the panel?

The panel provides space for members to share personal stories about how they joined or why they continue to be involved. It builds connection, inspires others and highlights the diverse paths to belonging.

2. How do we select panelists?

Choose between 4-6 members with varying backgrounds, experiences and lengths of involvement. Aim for a mix of perspectives (e.g. longtime members, new members, sister who returned after a time away, sister who joined because she was a project recipient).

3. What kinds of questions should panelists be prepared to answer?

Why did you choose to join P.E.O.? What made you stay? Was there a moment when you felt like you truly belonged? How has your involvement shaped you? Was it easy to return to chapter life after being away or transferring to a new chapter?

4. What kind of setting works best for this panel?

Semi-circle seating or an arrangement that looks like a chapter meeting. It should be casual and welcoming, just like a conversation among sisters.

FAQs continued:

5. What role does a facilitator or moderator play in the panel?

She sets the tone, introduces the purpose, guides the conversation with prepared questions, and ensures that all panelists have an opportunity to share.

6. Should panelists rehearse or prepare in advance?

Yes, lightly. A prep meeting helps panelists feel confident, understand the flow, and stay within time limits. Encourage authenticity over polished speeches.

7. How can we encourage audience engagement?

Allow time for audience questions, invite them to reflect or journal after the panel, or follow-up with small group discussions.

8. Can this format be adapted for smaller groups or one-on-one meetings?

Absolutely! In smaller settings, members can share in pairs or take turns sharing their stories in a circle. The key is intentional sharing and active listening.

FAQs continued

9. Can prospective members be part of the audience?

Yes! It is as beneficial to current members as it is to prospective members who want to learn more about our membership paths and our diverse perspectives. Learning why others choose to stay involved can help newcomers feel more confident, welcomed, and inspired to find their place in P.E.O.

10. Why would my chapter, reciprocity, or s/p/d want to hold a living panel?

Builds Connections – Personal stories foster empathy, deepen relationships, and help others see themselves in another's experience.

Celebrates Diversity of Paths – Every journey is unique and highlighting the different reasons others join and stay can broaden perspectives of what belonging looks like.

Strengthens Community – Shared stories reinforce the values, mission, and culture of P.E.O. creating a stronger sense of our collective purpose.

Sparks Deeper Engagement – These kinds of panels often lead to more conversation afterward opening the door for mentoring or deepening participation within the chapter, reciprocity, or s/p/d.

Demonstrates a Culture of Invitation – Panelists sharing their paths and why they stay creates a subtle but strong message: You are welcome here. There's room for your P.E.O. story.