If your palms get a little sweaty at the thought of attending a networking event, you're not alone. Each year the professional staff at Yale's Office of Career Strategy help hundreds of students like you make the most of networking opportunities. It's all about preparation and building confidence. In this brief video, we'll share our top 3 tips to conquer your next networking event.

Here we go....

Tip #1 - **Do your homework.**
Find out in advance what organizations will attend the event.
Learn something about the firms using [the employer directory in] Yale Career Link, and other online tools.
Don't forget to check LinkedIn for individual profiles.

Next, jot down a few questions for the companies that interest you. And show you’re interest in individuals by asking about their backgrounds and work.

Tip #2 - **Have a goal.**
For example, meet 3 new people at companies A, B and C and have a conversation. Think **quality** over quantity. This will help you stay focused and guide your interactions at the event.

Tip #3 - **Make an effective introduction.**
When meeting someone new, make eye contact, smile, say your first and last name and lean in for a firm, but brief, handshake. Listen for the other person’s name and try to use it a few times during your conversation.

As the conversation continues, be prepared to briefly share your academic background, career interests, skills you have and any projects you’re working on that relate to the organization. For more tips about telling your story, check out the “Telling Your Story” video on the Office of Career Strategy website. You probably won’t tell your entire 1 ½ - 2 minute story at a networking event, but you can use the pieces and parts.

It almost goes without saying, you will make a good impression by dressing appropriately. Business casual is typical for on campus networking events. When in doubt, ask the event host. *And* bring along a few resumes just in case someone asks for a copy.

The tools, resources, and calendar of events available to you through the Office of Career Strategy website will make it easy for you to prepare for networking events and our staff of Career Strategy Advisers are always available for personalized help via a 1:1 appointment which is accessible through your Yale Career Link account.

Finally, here's our bonus tip - **smile** as you enter the room of your next networking event. Employers will notice you as you enter the space – displaying a sense of friendliness and confidence will make a strong first impression.