



“People make much of having it all—and I really don’t believe in having it all, but I believe you can have some portion of it that works for you. So follow those passions and remember: Why not you? Why not you to succeed? You can do it.”

- Mariette DiChristina

Editor in Chief
Scientific American

Mariette DiChristina

Science Writing

When Mariette DiChristina looks back at her path, the way seems clear—but that wasn’t always the case. All through school she loved science: she was even excited when she got to put away the Bunsen burners! But there was a problem: if she wanted to be in science, she’d have to pick just one thing to specialize in, and she couldn’t do it—she loved everything! When one of her professors in a journalism class singled her out and told her that journalism was where all the best people were—and that it was where she should be, too—she listened. But her love of science still lingered, so at her first newspaper job, she started to slip in science stories from time to time. “Even at that moment I wasn’t sure what I had,” she says. “I just knew it was really fun.” What she had, she’s come to realize, was a job where she could combine all the things she loves: science, writing, art, and teaching. In hindsight, it’s the perfect job, but to get to it, she had to take a risk and follow her Interests.

ACTIVITY DETAILS

Materials



Computer



Internet



Projector
(for whole-class viewing)



Speakers or
Headphones

What To Do



25 min

Introduce students to the Roadtrip Nation Leader, play the Leader interview, and facilitate a discussion about the interview.

Big Idea

Each Leader's story shows students how they can combine their Interests to create greater academic and career possibilities. Each Leader also gives insights into complex themes like shedding The Noise, overcoming financial hardship, or dealing with self-doubt.

Tips and Tricks

1. Each Leader interview is designed to spark conversations on three topics:

- Future aspirations, including career and academic pursuits

- Students' Interests

- Themes from the Road

2. The lesson will guide you through key points in the Leader's story and the **Interview Breakdown** includes questions you can use to start conversations on the topics above.

1. **Meet the Leader:** Introduce the Leader by sharing the Leader collage, name, and career information with your students.
2. **Leader Quote:** Display the Leader quote on the projector. Ask students to discuss or respond in writing to the following question:
What does Mariette mean by "having it all"?
3. **Ask the Leader:** Read the Leader biography or pass out copies to students to read individually. Ask students to create an interview question for Mariette based on her biography. Call on students to share their interview questions and record them on chart paper or on the board.
4. **The Interview:** Play the Leader interview on the projector. If students have their own computers and headphones, they can watch the video individually if you provide the link.
5. **Interview Breakdown:** Have students address these questions with a partner, in small groups, or through written response.

Future Aspirations

Mariette didn't want to choose just one area of science to study. Why might choosing only one path make you feel unhappy?

My Interests

Who in your life has helped encourage your Interests? How have they helped your rethink your Interests?

Themes From the Road

What does Mariette's story teach you about combining your Interests?

6. **Wrap Up:** Revisit the Leader questions from the beginning of the lesson. Review the questions with the class, asking them to answer the questions based on the information from the interview.