

# AN EDUCATOR’S GUIDE TO ROADTRIP NATION: SEASON SEVEN

Whether you’re a Roadtrip Nation Educator, or completely new to Roadtrip Nation, the activities that follow turn simple Episode Guides into a meaningful enrichment activity for your students and their parents to experience together. The Episode Guides can be used to deepen The Roadtrip Nation Experience curriculum or serve as a great way to bring the themes and content from the road into your classroom for the first time.

The *Roadtrip Nation: Season Seven* Episode Guides that you can find at [roadtripnation.com/watch](http://roadtripnation.com/watch) facilitate a meaningful conversation between two people about the themes contained in each episode of *Season Seven*. However, we wanted to make these activities relevant to your classroom; and to do so, we suggest encouraging your students to have these conversations with their parents, or someone who they look up to in their homes.

Empowering your students to have meaningful conversations at home about their roads in life helps bridge the gap between the students and their families. Too often, the conversations about what students want to do, or how they want to live their lives, don’t happen—usually because students often struggle to find a footing on which to stand and express their own ideas about who they are and where they want to go. This enrichment activity provides neutral ground for students to feel comfortable sharing their innermost thoughts about life with their families; it is also our hope that when families feel more connected with their student, they’ll become at-home advocates for what that student needs to do to define his or her own road.

## *How to Implement the Episode Guides: Watch. Talk. Share.*

To get the conversations started, you’ll direct your students to [roadtripnation.com/watch/](http://roadtripnation.com/watch/) to find local listings for *Roadtrip Nation: Season Seven* in your area. In the event that they can’t watch the show on television, they can watch the episodes online by visiting [roadtripnation.com/watch](http://roadtripnation.com/watch).

Next, you’ll want to print the Episode Guides (which immediately follow these instructions) for your students. You can also instruct students to print out the Episode Guides on their own by visiting [roadtripnation.com/watch](http://roadtripnation.com/watch).

Students complete the Episode Guides individually. The activity takes roughly an hour of homework time - 30 minutes to watch the episode followed by a 30-minute conversation.

## WATCH.

First, instruct students to watch each episode with a parent, a mentor, or someone close to them. As they watch, they can answer each of the three synopsis questions pertaining to the episode.

## TALK.

Second, the thought bubbles on each Episode Guide stimulate meaningful conversation. The first question (left thought bubble) is the question that students will ask their parent or mentor. The second question (right thought bubble) is the question that the parent/mentor will ask the student. Encourage students to jot down any insights that they gain during this conversation.

*Did you ever feel like Calvin—you just wanted to be normal and fit in? What part of you do you feel you had to give up or hide? Do you miss it?*

*What do you think makes someone “normal” in your group of friends? Do you fit in according to that definition? How do you feel about that?*

## SHARE.

Third, each Episode Guide concludes with a reflection question. Students will write down any insights that they gained from their conversations in the space provided. They will also complete the statement that corresponds to that episode’s theme. Encourage students to participate in the thematic conversations online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Once they transcribe their responses online for each episode’s thematic statement, they become an active participant in the Roadtrip Nation Movement and a resource for others as they define their own roads.

### *In-Class discussion:*

Finally, if you have classroom time to discuss these Episode Guides, we encourage that you do so. The conversations that the students have at home might be difficult, or they might be motivating; by bringing them back into the classroom, other students can benefit from the insights gained and can share their thoughts, as well. The Roadtrip Nation Movement is all about empowerment, and what better way to empower your students than to give them a voice in your classroom!

# ROADTRIP NATION EPISODE GUIDES - INTRODUCTION

---

It's the greatest hope of any filmmaker that the content that he or she creates will inspire and ignite conversation—to get people thinking in a new or more meaningful way and bring about positive change in the world. That is certainly our hope for *Roadtrip Nation: Season Seven*, as well as every series that we have produced.

*Roadtrip Nation* is more than just a documentary series; it's a Movement dedicated to helping individuals define their own roads in life. While it might seem that watching *Roadtrip Nation* is enough to get you thinking, we see it as just the start. To truly engage in life, you must be an active participant, and the same is true with the themes of each *Roadtrip Nation* episode.

One common piece of insight that we hear from Roadtrippers is the odd realization that they have intensely personal and meaningful conversations with people that they just met; yet, in most cases they haven't even talked about some of these issues with their best friends or family. We hope that these Episode Guides will serve as a tool for drumming up some engaging conversations - some which are rarely had - between yourself and those who are close to you.

Each Episode Guide serves as a basic conversation starter. We've picked a specific theme to correspond with each episode (e.g., fear, risk, confidence) and added a few questions to guide you in the direction of a meaningful dialogue. We have also included a generic Episode Guide for episodes from other seasons. We hope that after watching an episode and engaging in thematic conversations with someone close to you, you'll have a better understanding of yourself and each other.

Through these enrichment activities, you'll also have the opportunity to take these conversations further. The theme of each episode corresponds to a collective dialogue at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). The conversation platform allows you to share your thoughts and insights with others and become an active participant of the Roadtrip Nation Movement. Once you interact with our online community, you become a source of inspiration for others as they define their own roads.

# ROADTRIP NATION CONVERSATIONS

Roadtrip Nation is all about sharing stories—stories that empower individuals to define their own roads in life. During the past year, Roadtrip Nation has deepened the breadth and scope of how we share these stories by developing a new online resource: **Roadtrip Nation Conversations** - a feature of our website that is all about sharing YOUR thoughts and insights and engaging with others who also define their own roads in life.

**Roadtrip Nation Conversations** cultivate short, but enriching, conversations among the Roadtrip Nation community. The platform takes Leaders' stories and creates an environment where you can relate them to your own life. You can expand on the subject matter and actively engage with the content and with each other.

The following pages contain Episode Guides for *Roadtrip Nation: Season Seven*. At the conclusion of each guide, you'll find specific prompts for that particular episode's theme. These prompts mirror the prompts available online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). For example, the theme of Episode Four is *Success*. In the Episode Guide, you will see the prompt: "*Success to me is ...* ." You can write your response directly on the Episode Guide; however, we hope that you also share your response online.

When you participate in Roadtrip Nation Conversations, you will join a community focused on what it means to define your own road. Once you share your insight, you can then tweet your response or post it wherever you like. Join the conversation!

Watch. Talk. Share.

We're excited to hear your thoughts!

The screenshot shows the 'Join The Conversation: On Success' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'roadtrip nation' logo and buttons for 'explore', 'watch', 'listen', 'participate', 'interviews', 'roadtrips', and 'interests'. A quote by Greg Carroll is featured: "The age old human yearning is, 'I want it all and I want it all now and if I don't get it, then I'm not going to do it.' So, I had to get over that, realizing that getting it all may never be achievable and that's okay because that doesn't define success." Below the quote is a text input field for 'Success on my own terms is:' with a 'Post' button and a character count. A 'Share this page' section includes social media icons for Like, Facebook, Twitter, Email, and a plus sign. A 'Leaders on Success' section lists several users with their profile pictures and names. The main content area displays 'Thoughts on Success' with user avatars, photos, and their responses to the prompt.

**Join The Conversation: On Success**

*"The age old human yearning is, 'I want it all and I want it all now and if I don't get it, then I'm not going to do it.' So, I had to get over that, realizing that getting it all may never be achievable and that's okay because that doesn't define success."*

**GREG CARROLL**  
CEO, American Jazz Museum

Success on my own terms is:  
type away...  
110 characters left  
**Post**

Or upload a photo on success:  
**Upload**

**Thoughts on Success:**

- Tawny Rose** on 07/20/10  
Success on my own terms is: Design, bike riding, illustration, photography, and truly being happy in this moment.
- Josh Wilburne** on 07/20/10  
Success on my own terms is: Make mistakes and fail but that can't stop me from getting back up.
- Joe Shmoe** on 07/20/10  
Success on my own terms is: Designing for myself and being creative, without any regard for the end result. Let the process guide my design.
- Lauren Ho** on 07/20/10  
Success on my own terms is: letting go of what's happened in the past, and live in the now.
- Nathan Gebhard** on 07/20/10

**Share this page:**  
Like Facebook Twitter Email +

**Leaders on Success:**

- First Lastname  
Leaders Title  
Company Name
- First Lastname  
Leaders Title  
Company Name
- First Lastname  
Leaders Title  
Company Name
- First Lastname  
Leaders Title

# ROADTRIP NATION EPISODE GUIDES

## WATCH.

Find an adult, mentor, or someone who you admire to watch this episode of *Roadtrip Nation* with you. Then, answer the synopsis questions on the Episode Guide. After you answer each question, you'll discuss the questions that appear in the thought bubbles. If you're not sure when Roadtrip Nation is on television, check [roadtripnation.com/watch](http://roadtripnation.com/watch) for airtimes. If you can't watch the episode together on your local station, then catch it online at [roadtripnation.com/watch](http://roadtripnation.com/watch).

## TALK.

After you watch each episode with someone close to you, talk about what happened and how it relates to your lives. To get you started, begin with the questions in the thought bubbles. The top thought bubble is the question that you should ask your partner, and the bottom thought bubble is the question that your partner should ask you. You will share the thoughts and insights from these conversations on the following page.

## SHARE.

After you have a conversation about each episode, consider how your conversations relate to the themes. Fill in each prompt that relates to each theme at the end of the Episode Guide; then, go online to share your thoughts with others. Go to [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations) and answer the prompt. Your insight can be an inspiration to others who want to have similar conversations as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. *Season Seven—Episode 1—Risk*



*“You’ve got to put yourself in those sink or swim situations. That’s what our culture is losing. We are losing the, ‘make things tough on yourself so that you’re stronger.’ We are getting more like, ‘Oh, that’s too hard. Convenience is the way to go.’ No way! Make it hard ... Be ambitious ... Stay up late ... Sink or swim!”*

**CHRISTIAN JACOBS**

*Co-Creator, Director, and Writer, Yo Gabba Gabba!*

## TALK.



Calvin has made a very conscious effort to make himself seem “normal”.

1) What factors drove Calvin to want to be more “normal?” In what ways did he feel that he already stood out?

*Did you ever feel like Calvin—you just wanted to be normal and fit in? What part of you do you feel you had to give up or hide? Do you miss it?*

*What do you think makes someone “normal” in your group of friends? Do you fit in according to that definition? How do you feel about that?*



Christian learned to step outside his comfort zone in his career.

2) Describe one or more ways that Christian took risks in his career, as a musician, or in television.

*What is the biggest risk that you have ever taken to move forward in your life? Do you still feel there are risks that you are willing to take?*

*Are there any risks that you would like to take at this point in your life or education? Is there something that I could do to help support you?*



Vanessa is struggling to make a decision about her future, and her fear of taking a risk inspires Christian to offer some advice to the team.

3) What safety net did Vanessa rely on after college, and what advice did Christian give her?

*Do you think fearlessness is a good thing? Why?*

*What was the first real sink-or-swim situation that you found yourself in? Did you sink or swim? What did you learn from the experience?*



**Afterthoughts:** After the conversation that you just had with someone close to you, share a new insight that you gained about *risk* and why taking risks is such an important part of defining your own road in life.

# SHARE.

Share each of your thoughts on *Risk* in the thought bubbles below.

*A risk worth taking is:*

*A risk worth taking is:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Risk* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. *Season Seven—Episode 2—Simplicity*



*“Know what you need to be happy, and get rid of the rest.”*

**JAY SHAFER**  
Founder and Designer, Tumbleweed Tiny House Company

## TALK.



Aleks Zavaleta, Executive Director, *Loco Bloco*

Aleks had a difficult childhood but ultimately had a simple decision to make which led her to personal and professional success.

1) Describe the difference *Loco Bloco* made in Aleks’ life.

*Have you ever been in a situation similar to Aleks’, where you were faced with a real life-or-death decision? Can you tell me about it?*

*When she was young, Aleks was frustrated with school. Do you ever feel like Aleks—that school isn’t teaching you everything that you need to know? What other subjects or ideas do you think that you should be learning about?*



Jay has made it his life’s work to live more simply and inspire others to do the same.

2) What does one of Jay’s homes force people to do and what does he believe that they gain as a result of this change?

*Do agree with Jay: that things can keep us from focusing on more important aspects of life? Do you ever feel you have too much “stuff?”*

*If you never had to worry about money, what would you love to spend your time doing?*



Lori Pappas, CEO, *Global Team for Local Initiatives*

Lori shares what she has gained from working with the Ethiopian people

3) In a few sentences, talk about how Lori’s life changed dramatically from the first half of her life to the second half? How does she feel now that she has simplified her life?

*Lori and Jay both said that living simply allowed them to think more clearly. Have you ever given something up that allowed you to think more clearly and live a better or happier life? Can you tell me about it?*

*What is the one thing that you could not live without—that even if you lived in a tent, or a tiny home, you’d still bring with you? Why does it mean so much to you?*



**Afterthoughts:** Even if life seems complicated, you can strive for *simplicity*. It gives you the ability to make decisions based on what you really need to be happy. After the conversations that you had about the episode, talk about what decisions you could make now, or in the future, to live simply and stay focused on what is most important to you.

# SHARE.



Share each of your thoughts on *Simplicity* in the thought bubbles below.

*All I need to be happy is:*

*All I need to be happy is:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Simplicity* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. *Season Seven—Episode 3—Fear*

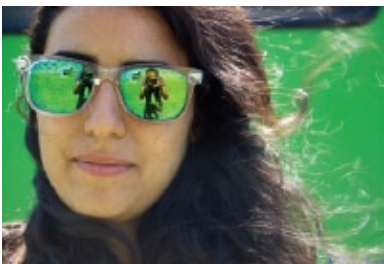


*“It’s so easy to get stuck along the way because you’re afraid. Fear will say, ‘I’d better just settle ... you know, I’d like to go there, but I’m afraid.’ I think our lives are always being challenged.”*

## GRANT GOLLIHER

*Cowboy and Horse Trainer, Diamond Cross Ranch*

## TALK.



Vanessa has a particularly hard time facing her fears.

1) What is it about Vanessa’s life that has made her so fearful of making decisions and taking chances? Describe why she says that she is always afraid to try new things.

*Did your childhood make it easier or harder for you to be brave and face your fears as you grew up?*

*How have you been taught to face your fears? What’s the first thing that you do when you are afraid? What do you think that you should do? What would help you move beyond your fear?*



Grant has faced his fears every day as a cowboy and horse trainer.

2) Has Grant completely eliminated fear from his life? How does he deal with his fears?

*What do you do when you encounter fear in a work situation or relationship? How do you handle your fears?*

*Have there been times when you were fearless and took on a challenge, even when other people were afraid of what might happen? What happened, and how did that feel?*



After speaking with Grant, Calvin reflects on his fears about future challenges.

3) Paraphrase Calvin’s greatest fears.

[Empty rectangular box for paraphrasing Calvin's fears]

*Adults aren’t “supposed” to be afraid of things, but what are you still afraid of at this point in your life?*

*What are you most afraid of at this point in your life or about your future? How could I help you to face that fear?*

**Afterthoughts:** After having a discussion about *fear*, reflect on what fears you have already overcome to get where you are in your life or what fears you still have to face. Share some of the insights that you gained from your conversation with someone close to you.

[Empty rectangular box for afterthoughts]

# SHARE.

Share each of your thoughts on *Fear* in the thought bubbles below.

*A fear I must face is:*

[Empty thought bubble for sharing a fear]

*A fear I must face is:*

[Empty thought bubble for sharing a fear]

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Fear* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. Season Seven—Episode 4—Success



*“The age-old human yearning is, ‘I want it all and I want it all now and if I don’t get it, then I’m not going to do it.’ So, I had to get over that, realizing that getting it all may never be achievable and that’s okay because that doesn’t define success.”*

**GREG CARROLL**  
CEO, American Jazz Museum

## TALK.



Bryan Simpson, Media Relations Director, *New Belgian Brewing Co.*

Bryan’s road into the business world began with an interest in English Literature.

1) Describe Bryan’s struggle with his parents about his education and the compromise that they finally reached.

*Were your parents always supportive of you and what you wanted to do with your life?*

*What dreams do you have for your future that you think I might not support? Could you explain why they are important or interesting to you?*



Greg Carroll sees success as a process more than a product.

2) How does Greg define success in work or careers?

*What did you love to do when you were younger? Have you been able to keep some of those things that you loved as part of your life?*

*How do you define success at this point? Is it more about how much money you make at your job or how you feel about it? What do you think is the balance?*



Michelle Dreher, Letterpress Printer and Founder, *Two Tone Press*

Michelle has not found wealth in her business, but still considers her work and her business a success.

3) How does Michelle think her mother would define success for her? What would she like Michelle to do or have?

*Why do you think that so many parents seem to push their children into conventional roles or careers?*

*Is there something that I do that puts pressure on you and your future that you would like me to stop doing?*



**Afterthoughts: Success** is a concept that has many different definitions. After discussing some of the different aspects of success through your conversation with someone close to you, share some of the ideas that you agreed on, and even one or two where you disagreed.

# SHARE.



Share each of your thoughts on *Success* in the thought bubbles below.

*Success on my own terms is:*

*Success on my own terms is:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Success* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. *Season Seven—Episode 5—Confidence*

*“You’ve got to know what you want and say, ‘I’ve got it already.’ There’s no, ‘If I’m going to get it.’ I’ve got it.”*



**THE KNUX**  
Hip Hop Artists

## TALK.



Kitty Love, Art Activist and Executive Director, *Arts 2 People*

Kitty never seemed to suffer from a lack of confidence, but it still took her a while to find a fulfilling place in the art world.

1) Briefly describe the event in Kitty’s life that led her to working on behalf of the arts and her community.

*Is there anything that you’ve done in your life that you felt completely confident about at the time but look back on with regret? Would you change it now?*

*What do you think is the greatest gift that you have to offer the world? Are you confident enough to use it yet?*



Daniela Romero, ESL Coordinator, *Nationalities Service Center*

Daniela went through a time of extreme insecurity that left her unable to leave her apartment.

2) What were some of the elements that led to Daniela’s lack of confidence when she first lived in America?

*What was your greatest insecurity about yourself at my age? How did it affect the choices that you made at the time? Does that insecurity still affect you?*

*Self-doubt can make you miss out on a lot of life. What do you think that you’ve missed out on because you weren’t confident enough to take the chance?*



Vanessa has a habit of relying on others instead of having the self-confidence to act on her own.

3) How does Vanessa gain confidence from the Roadtrip and the Leaders that they meet? What are her intentions moving forward?

*Has there been someone in your life who significantly improved your self-confidence? How did it change how you saw yourself?*

*Some people have a natural confidence (Kitty) while others have to work at it (Daniela). Where do you think you fit on the spectrum? Is that a good place to be, or would you like to move one way or the other?*



**Afterthoughts: Confidence** seems to come from having a strong interest in something and wanting to see it happen no matter what. After talking about the questions above with someone close to you, share some of the ideas that you discussed about what you could do with more confidence.

# SHARE.



Share each of your thoughts on *Confidence* in the thought bubbles below.

*With confidence, I can:*

*With confidence, I can:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Confidence* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. *Season Seven—Episode 6—Individualism*



*“My particular approach to life has been: I’m not any thing. I’m me. I’m the sum total of all the things that I am interested in, and I’m interested in a lot.”*

## KARY MULLIS

*Nobel Prize-Winning Chemist and Author,  
Dancing Naked in the Mind Field*

## TALK.



These three Roadtrippers from Montana have been friends for over 10 years, even though they are all very different.

1) What is the unique perspective that *each* Roadtripper brings to Team Poor, Lazy, Overachievers? Discuss each team member and what individual quality inspired him or her to go on the Roadtrip.

*What unique quality would you bring to a Roadtrip? How has that quality shaped you as an individual?*

*All of the Roadtrippers are aware of their families’ expectations and struggle to maintain individuality. Do you ever feel pressure to conform from your family? Do you think that it makes you more or less aware of who you really are?*



Kary was interested in chemistry from a very early age.

2) What was Kary’s first science project that he spoke about and how does it highlight his individuality at such an early age?

*Is there anything that you’ve been interested in since you were a small child, such as Kary and science? Is it still a part of your life at all?*

*Kary always knew that he loved science, but he focused on a lot of different areas within that field. Is there something that you love enough to center your entire life around? If one thing doesn’t stand out for you, what are some possibilities?*



At this point, Aaron thinks that he should already know who he is and what he is going to do with his life .

3) How does Kary respond to the Roadtrippers' desire to have all the answers right now? Does he think that they should know everything?

*Kary feels that he will always explore who he is and what he wants to do. Do you feel similarly, or do you feel that you've "arrived" and you're not going to change anymore? What other interests would you like to have the time to do or explore?*

*What are some interests that you hope to be able to explore throughout your life?*



**Afterthoughts:** Team Poor, Lazy, Overachievers looks for how they want to define themselves and what they want for their lives. What are some of the ideas about *individualism* that you developed through the conversations with someone close to you about the interests that define each of you?

# SHARE.



Share each of your thoughts on *Individualism* in the thought bubbles below.

*The interests that define me are:*

*The interests that define me are:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtriplnation.com/conversations](http://roadtriplnation.com/conversations). Click on *Individualism* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. *Season Seven—Episode 7—Acceptance*



*“The need for approval is real, but you don’t have to have it. You’re probably going to have to go without it.”*

**MATTHEW NOLAN**  
*Poet and Author, Crumpled Paper Dolls*

## TALK.



Glenna Goodacre, Sculptor, *Vietnam Women’s Memorial in Washington D.C. and the Sacagawea gold coin*

Glenna had a defining moment as a young art student.

1) What kept Glenna from pursuing sculpture for her first twenty years as an artist?

*Did you ever have a teacher or a mentor who discouraged you from following what you loved? How easily did you overcome it, or has it shaped your life?*

*Which teacher in your education so far has accepted you for who you are and affirmed you for it? Who has given you the most support in those terms?*



Malcolm McDowell, Actor

As a young actor, Malcolm was always trying to be accepted for an acting role.

2) What did Malcolm do to receive his first big acting job?

*Have you ever abandoned “acceptable” behavior, like Malcolm, and done something unexpected? How did people react to you? Did you care?*

*Do you think people worry too much about what other people think of them? Do you spend a lot of time thinking about it?*



# WATCH.

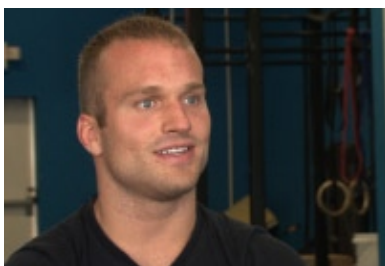
## Season Seven—Episode 8—Perseverance

*“I wanted to show them that when things got tough, I didn’t just give up; I fought through it no matter what ... I was going to make this a success story.”*



**VAN TAYLOR MONROE**  
Sneaker Artist

# TALK.



Kyle Maynard, athlete and owner, *No Excuses Crossfit Gym*

Kyle’s parents were extremely influential in his life.

1) Kyle’s parents made sure that he continued with many tasks that were difficult for him. What were some of those activities? Why do you think that they wanted him to persevere?

*In what ways did your parents, or someone else at home, teach you about how to carry on in the face of challenges? Can you share an example or two?*

*Can you think of an example where I wouldn’t let you give up on something, even though you wanted to quit? Are you glad that I made you stay with it? Why, or why not? How do you feel now about the result of that perseverance?*



Liz is truly inspired by Dr. Bill Bass, a forensic anthropologist.

2) Why were Liz’s parents so discouraged by her choice of a major? What did they hope for her instead?

*What is the closest that you have come to quitting something that was important to you? What made you see it through?*

*Liz was inspired by talking to someone who has her desired profession - why? Can you think of anyone who does something that you would want to do? What would you ask that person if you had a chance to talk to him or her?*



Van struggled for a long time to find success as an artist.

3) Why did Van leave his career as a highly paid broker to become an artist?

*Have you ever felt that you had to pursue something the way that Van did with his art? Do you think that you could follow a new dream if it came to you now, or does it seem too late or too difficult?*

*Van was inspired by President Obama's campaign theme of hope. What connection do you make between hope and the ability to persevere?*

**Afterthoughts: Perseverance** means continuing to work hard at something despite challenges and obstacles. Share some of the inspiration that you found from your conversations about persevering in the face of hardship.

# SHARE.

Share each of your thoughts on *Perseverance* in the thought bubbles below.

*I will never give up on:*

*I will never give up on:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Perseverance* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH. Season Seven—Episode 9—Courage



*“One of the virtues that I like best is courage, and I don’t think that it is valued that much anymore. I’d rather fail, and do what I think is right for me, than not do anything or do what I think is safe, which is not necessarily safe in the end.”*

**LIZ MANDARANO**  
Founder, Yoga Effects

## TALK.



Barney Frank, US Congressman from Massachusetts

From his youth, Barney Frank knew that he wanted to work in politics.

1) How did Barney get involved in the Civil Rights Movement as a young man during the summer of 1964?

*Have you ever felt that you wanted to stand up to someone or some system? Did you have the courage? What did you do?*

*What is an injustice that you see in our country, or our community, right now? Can you think of a way that you could try to change it if you had the courage?*



Heather Hiles, “Frankendoll,” Roller Derby Skater, *Dominion Derby Girls*

The Dominion Derby Girls are not afraid to fall.

2) What are the connections that Poor, Lazy, Overachievers make between roller derby and life?

*Were you brought up to be afraid of falling? Were you picked up and worried over, or did you have to dust yourself off and move on? How has that affected you as an adult?*

*Do you remember any bad falls, or failures, as a child? How were you treated when you fell? What did you learn from that experience?*



# WATCH. Season Seven—Episode 10—Community



*“I had very little support, but I felt really at home for the first time when I came to New York. This is the place that is going to accept me for who I am and what I want to say.”*

**NATHAN VINCENT**  
Crochet Artist

## TALK.



Zee Avi, Singer-Songwriter

Zee is also twenty-four years old, the same age as Liz, Autumn, and Aaron.

1) Describe Zee’s rise to success on YouTube.

*Zee was motivated to continue with her music because of encouragement from her online community. Have you ever had that experience of people coming together to support you and make you feel that your work is valuable?*

*Do you think that you can find a real “community” on the Internet, one that can support you? Explain which websites might offer you that support.*



The Roadtrippers have bonded over the course of six weeks on the road.

2) Why do you think that Liz, Autumn, and Aaron have become so close over the course of the Roadtrip? What were some of the highlights that they mention?

*Do you have best friends in your life— people who you can count on no matter what? Who are they or what are they like?*

*Are there any people in your life that you could go on a Roadtrip with? Which of your friends would look out for you and your future instead of just themselves?*



Nathan Vincent, Crochet Artist

Nathan is truly at home in New York City.

3) What has Nathan found in New York that he did not find in the Midwest?

*Are you still close to your family? Did you feel that they supported you when you were growing up, no matter what? Why?*

*Do you feel like I am part of your community? Could I be a more important part of your support system? How?*

**Afterthoughts:** Engaging with a **community** is an important part of the human experience. We all need to feel that we are understood and accepted by someone. After the conversation that you just had with someone close to you, share some of the ideas that you discussed about the importance of community.

# SHARE.

Share each of your thoughts on *Community* in the thought bubbles below.

*With a community, I can:*

*With a community, I can:*

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on *Community* in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Share your insight online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.

# WATCH.



Use the lines to fill in your favorite Leader quote from the episode, then answer the questions below.


# TALK.

1) What is a question, or an issue, that one of the Roadtrippers struggles with in this episode? In your answer, make sure that you include who it is, his or her team name, and why he or she struggles with that particular issue.

--

*Do you relate to any of the Roadtrippers from this episode in any way? Explain which Roadtripper you relate to the most, and why.*

*Do you think that the issues that the Roadtrippers think about are universal, something that all people struggle with at one time or another, or are they specific just to them? Have you faced any of those questions?*



2) What is the one piece of advice or insight that you will take away from this episode, from either a Leader or a Roadtripper? How do you think that you'll let it change you or your approach to life?

--

*Has there been somebody in your life whose story or words of advice have significantly impacted you and changed your outlook on life? Can you give me an example?*

*Which Leader did you find the most interesting? Was it because of something that he or she said, or because of his or her field? Why did you like this Leader so much?*

3) After watching this episode of *Roadtrip Nation*, what is a key theme or idea that unites the Leader interviews, or the Roadtrippers' reflections? Don't just list a word or an idea. Support your answer with at least a few examples from the episode.

*What are your thoughts on the theme? What would you say about it if a group of students interviewed you?*

*What is the one theme or idea that you would like to talk about, or share your thoughts on with a group of people? What is one thing that you have strong ideas about that you think would be helpful to others?*



**Afterthoughts:** Hopefully you've learned a few new things about yourself and someone close to you after watching *Roadtrip Nation* and answering the questions about the episode. Share an insight or two in the space provided.

Join the Conversation online at [roadtripnation.com/conversations](http://roadtripnation.com/conversations). Click on the Theme in the navigation bar on the top of the page that you think relates to this episode the most. Share your insights online and become a resource for others as they define their own roads.