

WATCH. *Season Eight—Episode 1—Passion*



“Whatever your passion is, you have to have a certain amount of conviction in that—or just don’t do it. Because if you just creep around it and tiptoe, it’s going to take so much longer to realize if you’ve failed or succeeded.”

HANNAH SONG
President, *LINK (Liberty in North Korea)*

TALK.



Nika, Roadtripper
Nika is almost done with her college degree, but she isn’t passionate about her major.

1) What is Nika’s major, and what does she want to pursue instead? How does her mother feel about her choices?

What did you feel passionate about when you were younger? Did you take risks to pursue your passion, or did you follow a more traditional path? Explain how you made your decisions.

Is there anything that you feel passionate about right now in your life? What passion is worth a risk?



Antoine, Roadtripper
Antoine has lived in the same place all his life. He is nervous about taking risks.

2) What was Antoine passionate about when he was younger that has faded away? What has he always dreamed of doing?

What was your childhood like? Did you grow up in the same neighborhood with a family who took care of you? Or, were you on your own? Tell me how your environment growing up made you more or less likely to take risks.

Do you feel that your upbringing has made you want to be ‘safe’ or go out and take risks? Why?



Hannah Song
President, *LiNK*

Hannah quit her job to join LiNK, an organization with a mission that she is truly passionate about.

3) What was Hannah’s life like when she first started to work for LiNK? What did she give up to pursue her passion?

Who has supported you when you’ve had to work really hard? How did he or she support you? If no one has, how did you make it on your own?

Do you think that you must pursue what is important to the adults in your life? Do you think that they expect you to have certain life goals? Explain why you feel this way.



Afterthoughts:

Passion has many different definitions, and it is also the driving force behind many of the decisions that people make. Share one or two of the insights that you gained through this conversation about people’s passions. Include a few ideas about your passions in life.

SHARE.

Share your thoughts on *passion* in the thought bubbles below.

Passion drives me to:

Passion drives me to:

Join the Conversation online at roadtripnation.com/conversations. Click on *Passion* 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 Eight—Episode 2—Character*



“Through any difficult endeavor, you get to know yourself. You put your character to the test, and you get results.”

JOE ROGAN
Comedian

TALK.



Karen Pearson
Co-owner/Manager,
Amoeba Music Hollywood
Karen surprised herself by becoming a business owner.

1) How does Karen think that she can change the world by owning a record store?

Have you felt changed by a one-on-one encounter, or relationship, with someone? With whom? And how did the experience change you?

Who has taken significant time to get to know you at school or in other places in your life? Has that relationship changed you at all?



Joe Rogan
Comedian
Joe Rogan has learned a lot about himself through his many different jobs and interests.

2) What are some of the things that Joe has learned about his character through difficulties that he encountered in comedy and taekwondo?

What difficult situation in your life showed your character? What did you learn about yourself?

Do you feel that your character has been put to the test yet? What experiences in your life have challenged you? Describe how they've changed you or developed your character.



Craig Robinson
Actor/Comedian
Craig Robinson jokes around with the Roadtrippers but has plenty of good advice.

3) What are some of the key insights that the Roadtrippers gain from their interview with Craig?

Craig’s dad teased him about his dreams, calling them “pie in the sky.” When you were young, was it hard for you to share your hopes and dreams with your parents? If not, how did you feel when telling your parents about your future plans?

Would you be willing to share your biggest dreams with the adults in your life? Why, or why not?



Afterthoughts:
After your conversations on *character*, what important character traits do you need to define your own Road?

SHARE.

Share your thoughts on *character* in the thought bubbles below.

I have built character by:

I have built character by:

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WATCH.

Season Eight—Episode 3—Desire



“Find out what really drives you ... because that’s what you’re going to be best at. That’s what’s going to make you kick the covers off in the morning—out of desire. If you don’t have a desire, how are you going to succeed?”

RICK MOONEN
Chef/Owner, *Rick Moonen’s rm Seafood*

TALK.



Rex Doty
Toymaker, *Toys 4 Smiles*
Rex Doty makes handmade toys for children in the Las Vegas area.

1) What is Rex Doty’s greatest desire? How does he put that into practice?

Have you helped someone without expecting something in return? Describe your experience.

Do you have a strong desire to help others? If you had to volunteer, or do community service, what type of organization would you want to help? Why?



Rick Moonen
Chef/Owner,
Rick Moonen’s rm Seafood
Rick has found great success by following his desire.

2) Where did Rick first discover his love for cooking, and how did he pursue that desire?

What have you truly desired in life? Maybe it’s to travel the country or to become a writer for a snowboard magazine. Whatever your desire is, how did you pursue it? Or, how have you tried to pursue it?

What is the difference between a desire and a dream? Do you think there is a difference?

WATCH.

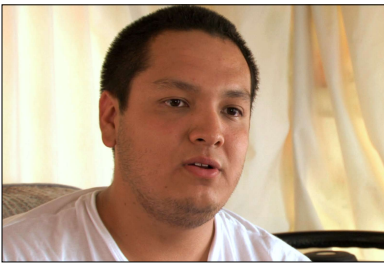
Season Eight—Episode 4—Focus



“The only thing that prevents somebody from building [something] is ambition or cash—or they aren’t willing to sacrifice because they want everything. Start prioritizing ... What is it that you can give away to get what it is you want?”

TODD MCFARLANE
Comic Book Artist/Entrepreneur

TALK.



Antoine, Roadtripper
Antoine is completely focused on getting an interview with Todd McFarlane.

1) What does Antoine have to do to get an interview with Todd? Why does Antoine want to meet with him so badly?

Have you ever been really focused on one goal? What was it, and what did you do to meet that goal?

Who is your hero—someone you would do just about anything to meet? Why do you want to meet him or her?



Todd McFarlane
Comic Book Artist/Entrepreneur
Todd began his career as a comic book illustrator and has become a successful entrepreneur.

2) Todd thinks that young people need to focus on what they really want and be willing to sacrifice other things to meet that goal. Paraphrase the advice that Todd gives his young employees who want to buy a house.

Have you ever had to give up possessions—like a car or new clothes—because you were focused on saving for something that you wanted more? Were you finally able to get it? Why, or why not?

Do you think that the society that you live in makes it easy or hard for young people to focus and make sacrifices to achieve their goals? Explain your thoughts.



Tom Rutherford
Founder, *Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta*
Tom has been involved in ballooning, politics, and entertainment.

3) Tom uses the phrase “doing the next right thing” to help him stay focused on what’s important in life. What were some things that he did in his life that he was proud of? What did he regret?

Do you have a phrase, or a principle, that has guided your life? Even if you don't have one memorized, is there an idea that helps you make important choices?

What is one accomplishment, or experience, that you are very proud of at this point in your life? Why?



Afterthoughts:

This episode showed how people *focus* on different things at different times in their lives. Share insights, or questions, that you developed through your conversations about focus here.

SHARE.

Share your thoughts on *focus* in the thought bubbles below.

I focus on what matters by:

I focus on what matters by:

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WATCH.

Season Eight—Episode 5—Failure



“Some things work and some things don’t, but you’re going to have more goals. Don’t feel bad because you make a bad decision. Just keep going.”

ALANA WARD ROBINSON

Managing Principal, *Robinson Consulting Group*

TALK.



Hannah, Roadtripper
Hannah recounts the losses that they suffered in the RV fire.

1) What are some of the things that the Roadtrippers lost in the RV fire? What do they hope to salvage?

What has been the most dramatic loss in your life? How did you overcome that hardship and start over?

Do you think that you could continue on the Roadtrip after losing all of your possessions? Why, or why not? What do you think gives them the desire to keep going?



Ross R. Rossin
Portrait Artist
Ross was always confident that he wanted to paint.

2) The collapse of the Soviet Union happened when Ross was a young man. How did he use the failure of the political system to pursue his passion in the larger world?

Has someone else’s failure ever worked to your advantage? For example, did it help you get ahead or do things that you couldn’t have done otherwise? How so?

Do you agree with Ross that fear is one of the worst emotions? Why, or why not? What has fear caused you to do?



Alana Ward Robinson
Managing Principal,
Robinson Consulting Group
Alana overcame segregation and discrimination to become a successful businesswoman in the computer and technology industries.

3) Many people are very afraid of making a mistake or wrong decision. How did Alana challenge that idea? What were some of the things that Alana was the ‘first’ to do as a student and young computer programmer?

Have you experienced discrimination because of your race, religion, or gender? How did you deal with it? Did it end well, or did you leave the experience feeling badly?

Do you see discrimination in your school or neighborhood? How does discrimination affect people who try to define their own Roads?



Afterthoughts:

Failure can happen in many different situations. It can happen when we take action, when we fail to take action, or even in relationships that mean a lot to us. No one is immune to it. Share your thoughts on failure and how it can serve as a positive, and negative, force in your life here.

SHARE.



Share your thoughts on **failure** in the thought bubbles below.

From failure, I have learned:

From failure, I have learned:

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WATCH.

Season Eight—Episode 6—Opportunity



“Get as many opportunities as you can. Meet as many people as you can, and say yes as much as you can. That will help that ‘thing’ find you ... it’s looking for you, but you have to be out there.”

GALE GAND
Pastry Chef/TV Personality

TALK.



Gale Gand
Pastry Chef/TV Personality
Gale believes in making the most of the opportunities that she is given.

1) Give examples of how Gale used every opportunity to learn more about what she was interested in, no matter what it was.

What are memorable opportunities that you’ve taken advantage of in your life? How did they affect your life’s path?

How do you think that you can create opportunities for good things to happen in your life?



Alex Ross
Comic Book Painter/Illustrator
Alex has always been passionate about comics.

2) What qualities, besides good fortune, have helped Alex succeed as an artist?

At one point, Alex talked about how anger drove him to work hard and prove himself. How has rejection affected you in the past? Did it make you work harder or make you want to give up? Give an example.

Alex started drawing comics when he was a child. What is something that you used to do as a child that you would still like to do as an adult?



Roadtrippers

The Roadtrippers have to make a decision about continuing or cancelling their Roadtrip.

3) When the Roadtrippers realize that they can no longer use the RV, what do they decide to do? What city do they go to next, and how do they get there?

Think of a time when you had an opportunity to make the best of a difficult situation. What happened, and what did you do about it?

Has there ever been a time when something you thought was a roadblock was really an opportunity?



Afterthoughts:

Opportunity can come from encountering new ideas and experiences. Problems, or rejection, can also create opportunities for you to grow and learn new things. After discussing different kinds of opportunities, and how you can respond to them, share a few of your thoughts here.

SHARE.



Share your thoughts on **opportunity** in the thought bubbles below.

I can create opportunity by:

I can create opportunity by:

Join the Conversation online at roadtripnation.com/conversations. Click on **Opportunity** 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.

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Season Eight—Episode 7—Values

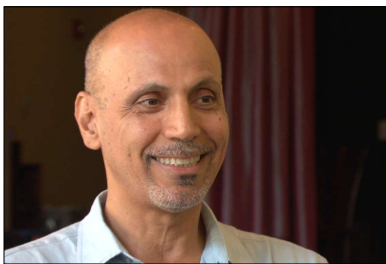


“It’s okay to have doubts and to be scared, but get to your core... What truth are you trying to say in your life?”

JUDITH JAMISON

Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

TALK.



Andy Shallal
Restaurateur/Owner,
Busboys and Poets
Andy Shallal values community and conversation.

1) Andy explored many different career paths and ideas before opening Busboys and Poets. What were some of the other paths that he tried along the way?

What do you think about the value of knowing when to quit? Share an example in your personal or work life when you were glad that you quit or when you wished you hadn't.

What is the difference between quitting because something is hard and quitting because it doesn't feel right?



Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq
Founder/Chairman,
International Child Art Foundation
Dr. Ashfaq believes in the value of an individual and the unique qualities that he or she brings into the world.

2) According to Dr. Ishaq, why is it important for every person to develop creativity? How can creativity benefit society and the whole world?

Do you think that being unique is important? Why? What makes you unique from other people?

What are some of your unique qualities? How do you think that you can use those qualities to make the world a better place?



Judith Jamison
Artistic Director,
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Judith has been dancing since she was 8 years old.

3) Who does Judith call ‘spontaneous survivors,’ and what does that phrase mean?

What are three values that you try to incorporate in your life? How have those values influenced decisions that you’ve made?

What do you value, and what priorities do those things take in your life?

Afterthoughts:

A key element of happiness is doing what you love—but sticking to your **values** is also important. After your conversations about values, share some of your thoughts here.

SHARE.

Share your thoughts on **values** in the thought bubbles below.

My life speaks truth when:

My life speaks truth when:

Join the Conversation online at roadtripnation.com/conversations. Click on **Values** 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 Eight—Episode 8—Determination*



“Just because somebody says you can’t, doesn’t necessarily mean you can’t. You have to remember that. It may be really hard ... but you definitely can. So, how bad do you want it?”

SOLEDAD O'BRIEN
CNN Anchor/Special Correspondent

TALK.



Ariel Helwani
MMA Sports Reporter
Ariel was determined to become a successful sports broadcaster.

1) What personality trait did Ariel have to overcome in order to follow his dream of working in broadcasting? Give an example of how it affected him in college or in his early career.

Have you had to overcome a personality trait in your life to find happiness or success? What was it, and how did you do it? Or, are you still working on it?

Think about your strengths and weaknesses. What may you have to work on to get to where you want to be? Do you have ideas on how you can overcome the challenge?



Soledad O'Brien
CNN Anchor/Special Correspondent
Soledad was determined to succeed despite what anyone told her she could or couldn't do.

2) Soledad wasn't afraid to make changes to pursue her goals. What were some of the strategies that Soledad used to improve her skills as a reporter and keep her dreams alive?

Give an example of something that you were determined to do even though others doubted you.

Determination can help you succeed, especially if you don't have natural talent for your passion. What are you determined to accomplish in your life right now?



Roadtrippers
Hannah, Nika, and Antoine finally make it to New York City.

3) The Roadtrippers are determined to change their lives after this Roadtrip. Whom do you think made the biggest change after one year, and what did he or she do?

Which year of your life had the biggest changes? How did you react to or cope with those changes?

If you could make one big change in your life in the next year, what would it be, and why? What are some ways that you might be able to make it happen?



Afterthoughts:

Determination can have a strong impact on whether or not someone reaches their goals. After your conversations about determination, share your thoughts here.

SHARE.

Share your thoughts on **determination** in the thought bubbles below.

I am determined to:

I am determined to:

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WATCH.

Season Eight—Episode 9—Regret



“Pursuing the unknown is frightening. And most people don’t do it ... but you may wake up in 50 years going, ‘What the heck did I do?’”

JESSE JACOBS
Owner, *Samovar Tea Lounge*

TALK.



The Roadtrippers
Carolyn, Denise, and Sarah embark on this Roadtrip to make major life changes.

1) Summarize the job, or life, situation that one of the Roadtrippers is leaving behind and why she wants to make a change.

Have you made a radical change in your life like the Roadtrippers? Why, or why not? What did you do?

Do you identify with any of the struggles, or questions, that the Roadtrippers faced? Which one, and why?



Jesse Jacobs
Owner, *Samovar Tea Lounge*
Jesse left a job in Web design to open his own business.

2) What led Jesse to want to start his own tea lounge? How many times did it take him until he finally got a bank to support his idea?

Is there something that you regret not doing earlier in your life? Explain. What do you wish you had done differently?

Do you think that you’re too young to think about regret and what you wished you had done? Why, or why not?

WATCH.

Season Eight—Episode 10— Money & Security



“When we first started Bioneers, there was no money in it, but I didn’t feel sad or burdened by it because I loved it. It made everything in me feel alive, as if I was participating in something I was born to be a part of.”

NINA SIMONS

Co-CEO and Co-founder, *Bioneers*

TALK.



Miss Indigo Blue
Burlesque Instructor and Performer
Indigo almost had to drop out of college because she had no money.

1) Indigo talks about the ‘bleeding edge of culture.’ What do you think she means?

Have you ever been criticized for doing something that you cared about, or believed in, that was looked down upon by other people?

Do you know anyone on the ‘bleeding edge of culture?’ What sets him or her apart? Has he or she been teased, or bullied, for being different?



Nina Simons
Co-CEO and Co-founder, *Bioneers*
Nina began her career in transformational theater.

2) What is more important to Nina than the money and security that a traditional career could offer?

Have you ever had to make a career choice where money played a role in your decision-making? Did money turn out to be important or not important to you?

What would be your dream job, or career, if you didn’t need any money? What do you really love to do? Why?



Kenny Ausubel
Co-CEO and Co-founder, *Bioneers*
Kenny seems very comfortable with not knowing what will happen next in his life.

3) Why did Kenny become interested in alternative medicine and the environment? Give specific details.

How comfortable are you with not knowing what's going to happen next in your life?

How important is security to you? Do you like to have a backup plan in case things go wrong?



Afterthoughts:
People meet their basic needs for *money and security* in different ways. After your conversations about money and security, share your thoughts or insights here.

SHARE.

Share your thoughts on *money and security* in the thought bubbles below.

If I didn't need money, something I would still do for free is:

If I didn't need money, something I would still do for free is:

Join the Conversation online at roadtripnation.com/conversations. Click on *Money & Security* 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 Eight—Episode 11—Pressure

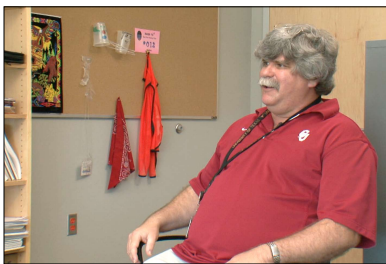


“It’s your life, so take the guidance and advice from other people. Filter it heavily, and apply it in a way that you can succeed.”

MIKE BIGGERSTAFF

Meteorology Professor, *University of Oklahoma*

TALK.

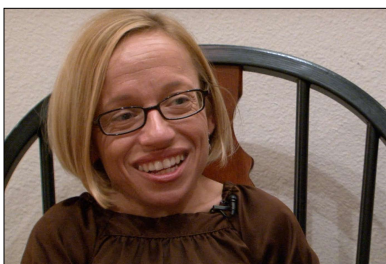


Mike Biggerstaff
Meteorology Professor,
University of Oklahoma
Mike’s parents weren’t supportive of his plan to go to college.

1) How does Mike feel about the concept of uncertainty or not knowing all the answers?

How did your parents, or guardians, feel about your plans for the future when you were in high school? Were they supportive of what you wanted to do?

Do you feel pressured to have everything under control, or figured out, right now? Who makes you feel pressure?



Dr. Jennifer Arnold
Neonatologist,
Texas Children’s Hospital
Jennifer overcame a lot of obstacles to become a doctor.

2) How did Jennifer handle her status as a ‘little person’ in her application to medical school?

What does it mean to be resilient? When have you had to be resilient?

What obstacles in your life feel too hard to handle sometimes? How can you apply what Jennifer has gone through to your own experiences?

WATCH.

Season Eight—Episode 12—Experience



“Stop being outside of who you are and watching your life from the sidelines. This is all part of an evolution... We are the total sum of our life experiences.”

PENNY BROWN REYNOLDS
Judge, Author, and Ordained Minister

TALK.



The ASA Flight Crew #5202
These women are the first all female, African-American flight crew.

1) What impact does Flight Crew #5202 believe that they can have on other people who hear their story or see their picture?

When you were young, who did you look up to? What did their experiences teach you?

Do you think that it's possible to benefit from someone else's experiences? Why, or why not? What have you learned from the experiences of others?



Penny Brown Reynolds
Judge, Author, and Ordained Minister
Penny believes that our experiences change who we are.

2) Why does Penny believe that our past experiences can keep us from moving into the future?

Have you allowed past negative experiences to define you? How did you finally let them go?

What new experience or challenge could teach you something new about yourself?



The Roadtrippers
Carolyn, Denise, and Sarah have all been changed by their experiences on the Road.

3) Where is each of the Roadtrippers one year after the Roadtrip?

Why do you think that we fall back into comfortable habits, even when we've experienced other ways of doing things?

What aspect of a Roadtrip do you find the most life changing? The interviews, the travel, or the time spent thinking about how you want to live your life? Why?



Afterthoughts:

Experience has the power to change us. However, it isn't always easy to remain open to new possibilities. After your conversations on experiences, share a few thoughts on how experiences change us here.

SHARE.



Share your thoughts on *experience* in the thought bubbles below.

An experience that defines me is:

An experience that defines me is:

Join the Conversation online at roadtripnation.com/conversations. Click on *experience* 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.