

Write Here, Write Now : : A Town Hall Meeting Sample Moderator Questions

1. Through our research we discovered that graduates are leaving Michigan at a rate of 44% annually. What do you see changing in our state's economic outlook to remedy this problem?
 2. We have found that other major cities have much more success in attracting graduates. What new things can Michigan do to keep this crucial young workforce in our state?
 3. (address PW people) Compared to other concerns, how significant is the economic situation of the area to which you would be moving when seeking a new job?
 4. (for a policy maker) After looking over the materials presented in the program "Write Here; Write Now," do you think there's a possibility for more joint ventures between the government and the local professional writing community?
 5. Do you find that having students intern before graduation helps to keep them in the state after graduation?
 6. In our research, we compiled a list of key skills that are attained by PW students during their time at MSU. What would you say are the three most important skills sought by employers in Michigan and why?
 7. Our research examined how the skills of a Professional Writing major are relevant to a wide variety of companies within MI. How do you see writing, communication, and technical skills playing a part in the state's current job market, and how do you foresee these skills contributing to MI's changing economy?
 8. (for professional writer) Are you aware of or involved with Michigan's Cool Cities initiative at all? If so, what have you seen the cool cities provide for professional writers like yourself? If not, would you be interested in participating, to give a voice to professional writers here in Michigan?
- (policy maker) Are you involved with the Cool Cities Initiative, or are you aware of what is being done to attract professional writers to these cool cities?

9. Employment of Editors and Technical Writers in Michigan has decreased significantly (US Bureau of Labor Statistics web page) from the start of the cool cities program to now. Do you think this indicates that the program is not working? What suggestions do you have for the cool cities program to keep and attract professional writers to Michigan?

10. Since our research has indicated that many PW alumni are leaving Michigan for bigger cities, such as New York and Chicago, how can Michigan compete on that level of urban attraction? Should we focus on changing the negative perception of our main large city, Detroit, or should we work on directing the focus to the appeal of some of our other larger cities, like Grand Rapids or Lansing?

11. Our research shows that people who have lived in Michigan but left would return for only one thing: family. What action is being taken to attract people who grew up in Michigan back to the state?

12. Are there any job related policies in other cities or states that might be helpful if implemented in Michigan?

13. What characteristics of creative cities do you think Michigan cities have and how might we develop them further?