

Getting to Know One Another

Initial Activities and Questions for Mentoring Relationships

Below are a series of activities and questions mentors and mentees can use to get acquainted with one another. Many of them have similar themes, so it is recommended that you select a method or two you are most comfortable with rather than performing them all. Otherwise, your initial meeting can be as simple as asking each other questions or taking part in an activity that introduces you both. Either way is effective. Just be sure to take some time to get to know one another in addition to establishing expectations for your relationship.

1. Five Minutes to Get to Know You

Figure out how many things you have in common (that aren't obvious) in five minutes. Write your commonalities down.

2. Five Questions

Write five questions on a piece of paper. Questions might include the following:

- Where's your hometown?
- Do you have any hobbies? If so, what are they?
- What is your biggest accomplishment?
- When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Ask your partner to add five more questions to that list. Interview one another and record your responses.

3. Fact or Fib

You and your mentee are going to share some information about yourselves. Each of you should take turns saying five things about yourself. Four of your statements should tell things that are true and one of the five statements is a total fib. Each of you will give each other a "fib quiz" by guessing which of the five statements is a fib for the other individual.

4. Write Each Other a Letter

Write a letter to your mentee. In that letter, introduce yourself to them. Tell them about your hopes for the mentoring experience and some of the things that you'd like to do. In addition, tell them a few personal things about yourself; for example, your likes and dislikes, what you did over the summer, and/or your hobbies. Ask questions throughout the letter as well about their interests, likes and dislikes, what they are really good at, etc. Send the letter to your Mentee prior to your meeting and ask that they write a return letter to you. In the return letter to you, they will need to answer some of your questions and tell you about themselves. This is a great way to get to know each other in a personal way.

5. "Getting to Know One Another" Questions:

- a. Tell me about you and your background.
- b. What do you like to do in your free time?
- c. What are your personal and professional goals?
- d. What gives you the greatest sense of satisfaction?
- e. What is your biggest accomplishment?
- f. When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- g. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- h. What's your #1 favorite song to listen to?
- i. What is one of your favorite quotes?
- j. What is your favorite time of day/day of the week/month of the year?
- k. What is your favorite TV show/movie/book?
- l. If you could throw any kind of party, what would it be like and what would it be for?
- m. If you could paint a picture of any scenery you've seen before, what would you paint?
- n. If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what age would it be?
- o. If you could witness any event in the past, present, or future, what would it be?
- p. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?
- q. If you had to work on only one project next year, what would it be?
- r. If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?
- s. If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?
- t. If you could be any fictional character, who would you choose?
- u. What would you name the autobiography of your life?
- v. What songs would you include on the soundtrack of your life?
- w. Have you ever had something happen to you that you thought was bad, but it turned out for the best?
- x. What was the last movie, TV show, or book that made you cry or tear up?
- y. What's the hardest thing you've ever done?
- z. What was the last experience that made you a stronger person?
- aa. What's the best/worst gift you've ever given/received?
- bb. What is your first memory of being really excited?
- cc. What was the first thing you bought with your own money?
- dd. What is something you've learned in the last week?
- ee. What story does your family always tell about you?
- ff. What's the most amazing concert/musical/play/production you've ever been to?
- gg. What is your favorite memory?
- hh. If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?
- ii. How would your friends/colleagues describe you?
- jj. What would you want if you were on a stranded island?
- kk. Where and what do you want to do when you retire
- ll. How do you want to be remembered?
- mm. You have a 10-minute speech to give at a high school, what is it about?
- nn. What is your mission?
- oo. Who is your hero?
- pp. If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?
- qq. If you could eat only one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- rr. What would you sing at a Karaoke Night?
- ss. Aside from food, water, and shelter, what one thing could you not go a day without?
- tt. What are your pet peeves?
- uu. Who would you want to play you in a movie of your life?