

SUPPORTING LESS ENGAGED STUDENTS

Why isn't my mentee writing?

Your student may be unsure of or intimidated by writing an adult they don't know.

Your student may have responsibilities that take priority over school work such as a job to support their family or care of younger siblings.

Your student could be experiencing social anxiety or other mental health struggles.

Your student may be failing this class and not completing in any assignments at all in class.

You likely won't know what your student's situation is, but it is important to not make assumptions about why your student isn't writing and remain an engaged and supportive mentor.

Strategies to Encourage Participation

Ask your student what their thoughts are regarding the guiding questions. It is important that your student feels that their opinion matters.

Ask your student about their interests and hobbies. Try to get them talking about something they are excited about.

Ask your student if there are any educational or career opportunities that they want to learn more about.

Try rephrasing your questions, if you feel your student is having trouble understanding what you are asking them.



Your Role as a Mentor

Provide genuine encouragement to your student by expressing that you care.

The goal is to meet your student where they are at. Their expectations may not match yours.

Be open-minded, and show empathy if your student shares about their hardships.

Additional Resources

[Engaging Less engaged students](#)

[Cultural Humility Training](#)

[First Time Tips](#)

If you have any questions or concerns at any point, please reach out to your BestPrep coordinator. Thank you for volunteering and have fun!