Mentor Tip Sheet



Inspire. Educate. Connect.



Share Stories
Students are inspired by their mentors' experiences and stories, especially when they were woven into giving advice.



Tell How You Got to be Where You Are

Students tell us it is fun to learn about how people got to where they are now. Share a story about an obstacle you overcame along the way.



Show You've Been Listening

As students share information about themselves, weave that information into later conversations.



Mentees appreciate it when their mentors ask questions. It makes them feel appreciated when someone took the time to get to know them.

Don't Assume
If a student does not provide a detailed response to your email or does not reply all, don't assume they don't For some students, Engl' second language or 'hard time figur' back. Cont' reply at

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ack. Continue to be engaged in the
conversation by asking questions
in and connecting with students with students.

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Say What Worked for You

Students appreciate getting good advice from mentors about ways to overcome challenges and how to achieve the goals in their lives.

Treat Students as Equals, Not Like a "Kid" Students appreciate when their mentors respect them. It makes students feel more welcome and willing to share their experiences.



Challenge Growth and Expand their Possibilities

Inspire students to go outside their comfort zone and take advantage of current opportunities. Reinforce 9th grade isn't too early to start thinking about high school graduation and their future.



Make Connections

Find some things in common with your mentee, whether it's the same hobby, musical taste, sports team, or academic interest. Students appreciate connecting around real life interests with their Cloud Coach.

These tips come from interviews Search Institute of MN has conducted with participating students.