

MENTEE CONVERSATION TIP SHEET

Do you ever wonder what to say when you sit down to write your mentor? Do you sometimes draw a blank? Lots of people develop writer's block when faced with the task of writing. Not knowing what to say may result in short, unfulfilling e-mails between you and your mentor.

Your mentor has a wide range of life experiences; try tapping into these experiences by asking follow-up questions. Also, ask your mentor specific questions about his or her career and career choices. This practice may give your mentor some insight into the decisions you may be facing.

Here is a list of five thought-provoking questions you may want to use the next time you sit down in front of the computer to e-mail your mentor. Take some time to answer these questions yourself before sending them to your mentor. This way you can start a dialogue over e-mail about each question.

1. What is your greatest talent? What are some things you do really well?
2. How would your best friend describe your best characteristics and qualities?
3. What is the most important lesson you have learned in your life?
4. What is the biggest mistake you have ever made and what did you learn from it?
5. Who are some of the people you admire and why?

You may also want to share some of these more general questions with your e-mentor to get your online discussions going.

1. What did you do after you graduated from high school? Would you do that again?
2. What do you like most about your work?
3. What kinds of things do you do in your free time?
4. In what ways did your education prepare you for your job?
5. If you could go back to high school, what would you do differently?
6. Why were you interested in becoming an e-mentor?
7. How did you choose your career?
8. How do you define success? What do you think is most important for success?
9. Did you ever have a mentor? Do you have one now? How did that person help you?
10. What are your favorite, book, movie television show, and food?

Remember, your mentor wants to be involved in meaningful discussions with you online. This can happen only when there is a weekly exchange of meaningful e-mails.