



Topics For Discussion:

Possible E-mails to keep the Conversation Flowing

Its possible at any point in an e-mail relationship for a mentor and mentee to find their conversation at a standstill. In the beginning it is shyness about interacting with a new person, and later it can be simply because when a mentor and mentee have spent little to no in-person time with each other conversation can taper off. Occasionally you might need a little push to get things going again. This is why having a list of possible email topics can come in handy. These can be used at any point in the mentor/mentee relationship and might help to inspire even more emails and insight into each other's worlds.

***My Family History:** Pairs share, discuss, and compare their family histories, including parents and grandparents.

***Where I am, Where I'm Going:** Mentees describe their morning routines, from waking up to arriving at school, as a way of introducing their home, family, neighborhood and school to their mentors. Then, mentees imagine their dream life twenty years down the road. They write another, fictional, morning routine for their dream life in twenty years. Mentors reply with a description of their morning routine.

***My Hero:** Mentors and mentees create a personal definition for the word hero and then select one individual to be their hero. Both mentors and mentees describe their hero and discuss why they've selected that particular individual.

***The American Dream:** Pairs describe what they consider to be their "American Dream" and discuss how that is similar to and different from the "American Dream" of their parents.

***My Personal Action Plan:** Mentees set three "personal" goals for themselves that they would like to accomplish by the end of the school year. Pairs discuss these goals over email, how they can be accomplished, what might stand in the mentee's way and how their mentor might be able to help.

***Virtual Externship:** Mentees take a “virtual” tour of their mentor’s workplace. Along with learning about their mentor’s career and work environment, pairs discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different career paths, mentee’s plans, etc.

***My College Preferences:** Mentees discuss the different options they have when choosing a college, including type of school, type of degree and all of the more subtle factors that contribute to a successful college experience.

***New Year’s Resolutions:** Mentors and mentees share their New Year’s resolutions with each other. Each person shares two resolutions. Mentor and mentees then discuss what they each hope to accomplish in the coming year.



Mentors, be sure to let us know which ones worked for you and some of your own topics for discussion that kept the conversation flowing!