



**Department of
Education**

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**NEW YORK CITY MENTORING PROGRAM
THE BEGINNING OF A BRAINSTORM...
MENTOR-MENTEE ACTIVITIES**

Not sure where to begin? Want to try something different and new with your mentee? Here's a list of suggested activities to begin your brainstorm with your mentee. Good luck and have fun!

Read a book together and discuss it weekly

Sign up for a library card

Explore Central Park

Help your mentee create/revise a resume

Interview each other

Research a topic and create a report together

Teach your mentee how to use Excel or other Microsoft Applications

Make up a New York City Scavenger Hunt and go on it

Do the A-Z project: take photos of things that look like letters of the alphabet

Take personality tests like the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (version available on the web), then go to a bookstore or library and look at books that describe these types and the kinds of careers that people with your personalities tend to excel in (example: try the book *Do What You Are: Discover the Perfect Career for You Through the Secrets of Personality Type*)

Read the newspaper and discuss current affairs

Tour favorite New York City neighborhoods

Tour an area neither of you have been to before in New York City

Student: make a list of what you want in a college; Mentor: what were the advantages/disadvantages of where you went to school? What were you looking for?

Attend free movies at Sony Wonder Technology Lab

Go window shopping

Ride the Staten Island Ferry

Play “guess the name of the sculptures” game at the outdoor Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens

Visit the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (\$4 for students w/ ID, \$8 for adults, and free some Saturdays/weekdays)

Tour the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx (\$3 for students w/ ID, \$6 for adults)

Discover El Museo del Barrio (\$4 for students, \$6 for adults—or attend ‘Free Third Saturday’ of every month)

Teach your mentee how to play chess

Buy a disposable camera and take pictures on an outing together

Visit Chelsea Piers (cost involved)

Pick a topic for a college admissions essay/personal statement—ask your student to write an essay and then give him/her feedback

Play a game together—cards, Taboo, Sorry, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit, Checkers...whatever you can bring from home and play in a coffee shop, park, or conference room

Practice writing letters to the editor about issues that the two of you care about and try to get them published

Ask colleagues who went to different colleges to speak to your mentee about their experiences

Help your student to prepare for a job interview

Take SAT practice tests together

Go to a yoga class together

Attend a Big Apple college fair in the fall (www.bigapplecollegefairs.com); fair is usually held on five different dates in each of the five boroughs

Shoot hoops together

Go ice skating (cost involved)

Have coffee at Starbucks

Help the student to write a letter to someone he/she admires or would like to address (an author, teacher, politician, etc.)

Draw together (if your student is an artist)

Go to the New York Public Library's website (www.nypl.org) for their calendar of events and attend films, lectures, and musical performances

Review the DOE's list of "Web Site and Literary Mentoring Resources" for more ideas

Create a budget—what expenses can your mentee anticipate having after graduation? What is your mentee's budget now?

Teach your mentee how to do something fun but job-related, such as how to write a movie review

Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge

Attend your mentee's school sporting event, play, concert, or some other event for which he/she has prepared

Go to an art gallery

Study for an upcoming test

Work out at the gym

Quiz your mentee on vocabulary words

Describe an informational interview to your mentee, have him/her set up informational interviews with your colleagues, and help your mentee prepare for the interviews

Help your mentee with homework assignments

Have your mentee shadow you at work—for example, obtain permission for him/her to attend a meeting or listen in on a conference call—and talk about the experience before and after

Find a job that the mentee is interested in and help him/her draft a cover letter (even if your mentee isn't going to apply for the job)

Ask to see your student's report card and help your mentee to identify ways in which he/she can improve

Talk about your family and cultural traditions and encourage your mentee to share some of his/her traditions with you