Topics for Discussion between Mentors and High School Age Youth

1. Time line for after high school— in 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years
2. Realistic and attainable goals
3. Examination of personalities and style of functioning
4. Personal interests of both mentor & mentee
5. Financial independence— personal credit cards, budgeting, ATMs and setting up a bank account
6. Balance time— time management
7. Get organized— does the youth have a calendar and organizer?
8. People you admire— your heroes
9. Communication skills
10. Workplace-readiness skills
11. Employability indicators— attendance, punctuality, appearance, initiative, maturity, courtesy, attitude, quantity of work, quality of work, flexibility and cooperation
12. Job opportunities— job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships
13. Career interest inventory
14. Job exploration
15. Mock applications for work and post-secondary education
16. Applications for financial aid, scholarships and awards
17. Creating a resume
18. Practicing interview skills
19. Exercise and eating right
20. Personal mission statement
21. Driver’s license
22. Well-rounded youth: involvement in school clubs, community activities
23. Reviewing report cards
24. Appreciating cultural differences
25. Manners: etiquette (including cell phone and pager)
26. Visiting a local college
27. Designing a business card
28. Advice regarding risky business (alcohol, drugs, sex, cigarette smoking, gang activity, peer pressure)
29. Getting ready for the prom
30. Summer plans
31. Relationships
32. Values of both mentor & mentee
33. Taxes
34. Health Insurance
35. Savings and investments
36. Credit cards
37. Finding a summer job
38. What it takes to get ahead and get along
39. Making connections
40. Dressing for success
41. Talking about your first job
42. Planning a career

What are some additional ideas that you have tried and found to be successful? List them below and share with other mentors:

Source: Dr. Susan G. Weinberger, Mentor Consulting Group
Edited by: Virginia Mentoring Partnership, 2009