

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Questions you may ask each other:

- Name
- Nickname
- Background and origin of the name (a good assignment for your mentee to research with a family member after your session)
- Places you have lived
- Educational backgrounds
- Siblings
- Things you like and dislike
- Favorite foods
- Favorite colors
- Favorite television shows, books or magazines
- Interests and hobbies
- Pets
- Favorite sports
- Best movies
- Birthday

When you have completed the questions, let your mentee ask the same of you. Include where you work and what you do. Bring a scrapbook from home and share photos of your family and pets.

When choosing topics, a word of caution: be attuned to your mentee's reactions and/or level of comfort. For example discussing families may be too personal for some young people, and they may not feel comfortable sharing that kind of information with a stranger. In time, you won't be a stranger; you'll be a friend.

Before you leave on the first day, don't forget to mention:

1. Why you are here_____.
2. When you will return_____.
3. How you will notify mentee if you are unable to come: by fax? Or by phone?
4. Plan with your mentee at least one thing you are going to do together the next time you meet.