

NINE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR MENTOR



What were your biggest weaknesses or fears as a child? How did you get over them?

This question will help you know your mentor better. You might be surprised that your mentor shares some of the same weaknesses or fears that you have. Your mentor might have stories of success that will inspire you when asking about how they overcame their fears.

Tell your mentor about your hobbies, then ask them: What are yours? Why do you like doing them?

Hobbies are wonderful. Hobbies can help you make friends, challenge you in areas you enjoy, relieve stress from your daily activities, make you interesting and enrich your perspective of the world. Learning about someone else's hobbies may help you come to understand the person better. Who knows, you may even find yourself a new hobby!

Describe a difficult situation you are going through and ask your mentor "What would you do?"

When times are tough, we can sometimes make quick emotional choices - instead of well thought out choices - Even if you don't think that your mentor may fully understand your situation, it doesn't hurt to listen to their ideas.



What were your big dreams or goals growing up?

It may surprise you what your mentor imagined they would be doing as an adult. Some mentors may have achieved all of their goals, while others may have gone in a very different direction (like wanting to be an astronaut but now they are a teacher). Find out what inspired their choices growing up that helped them to become the person they are today.

How can I contact you?

Find out the best way and the best time to contact your mentor. If something happens, you got an A on your exam, or that special part in a school play, or maybe you're dealing with something hard and want to talk to your mentor, finding out the best times will help you to reach them at a time when they can talk!



Why did you choose to become a mentor?

Your mentor chose to volunteer his/her time to be a mentor with Amachi Pittsburgh. Asking why they chose to be a mentor could help you to understand what inspired them to volunteer. You may also learn what goals or expectations your mentor has for the mentor/mentee relationship! Learning these goals can help you both to build a more meaningful and exciting relationship.

Who inspires you most?

Do you have a personal hero? Some of us feel motivated by a certain person we have met. Celebrities, storybook or comic characters inspire others. The more important follow up to this question is why your mentor is inspired by this particular person/character. You should find your own inspirations too. They can keep you focused and energized.



What makes you nervous?

We all get nervous because of different things. You may be nervous because you have a project due next week. Someone else might be nervous because he/she is about to see a dentist. This question will help you to get to know your mentor better, and help to connect with them.

What are some things that make you happy?

Asking them what kinds of things make them happy will help you to be a good friend for them as well! Maybe they like to hear words of praise like "I really enjoy when we play basketball together". Maybe it will make them happy if you give them a hand made picture, thank you card, or birthday card (it might even end up on their fridge). Maybe it would make them feel happy to receive a text from you saying you appreciate them. Just let them know that you are interested in the things that will make them feel cared for, and you can even talk about the kinds of things you like as well! For example you could say "It makes me feel good when you remember to call me just to see how my test went at school".

