



The Art of Conversation and Open-Ended Questions

Have you had a conversation with your mentee you felt ill prepared for, or wondered how to engage in a meaningful exchange? Last month's mentor training presented the best solution for this mentoring problem, the art of conversation and open ended questions. While it may seem daunting at first, if executed in a thoughtful manner, your efforts can have a positive impact on your mentee throughout the week. Intrigued? Check out the resources below. With a little practice and planning, your mentor/mentee relationship can be a source of creative thinking, problem solving and good conversation.

To be skilled at the art of conversation, the first thing mentors must understand is that active listening is your strongest weapon. To review essential listening tips and the 70/30 rule [click here](#).

Next, mentors must learn to ask open-ended questions, to encourage creative thinking. For some thoughtful open-ended conversation starters [click here](#).

Using different styles of open-ended questions bring varied and unexpected results. For a detailed tutorial on what makes a question open-ended [click here](#).

And finally, remember, one size does not fit all! It is crucial to practice and try tailoring your questions to get to the heart of the conversation. As our mentee's grow and move into different age groups and developmental stages, their confidence, willingness, or ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings can also change. To practice – [click here](#).