



Pair Event: Making My Choice



EVENT OBJECTIVES

Pairs will continue to work on comparing/contrasting post-secondary options with the aim of arriving at a post-secondary decision.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

This event is centered around making a final choice as to the post-secondary pathway the mentees will be pursuing.

EVENT PREP

Set up a check-in table with event packets, pens/pencils, name badges, seating assignments and check in documents.

Post a few copies of the seating assignments on the walls. Make sure to use a large enough font!

AGENDA (90 min event/20 min huddle)

10 min	Welcome
35 min	Chat and Chew: Mentor Panel
40 min	Post-Secondary Decision Work Time
5 min	Closing
20 min	Mentor Huddle: Comparing Post-Secondary Options

FACILITATOR NOTES

You must set the 12.4.4 lesson “My Award Packages” before the event so students can access the Award Letter Guide file on the Platform. You must set the 12.4.6 lesson “My Fit Factors” before the event so students can access the Fit Factor Guide file on the Platform.

This event will require pre-work. The goal is to launch a panel during the chat & chew portion of the event. The panel will be focused on asking participants how they arrived at their post-secondary decision. You may include mentors, teachers, and former high school students as panelists. We have included questions in the script for you to use as you moderate the panel.

Materials: [event packet](#), computer/internet for post-secondary access tasks and research

AGENDA

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Welcome and Intro (5 min)	TALKING POINTS • Welcome, everyone! Tonight, we have a fun event in store for you. We are going to start off with a panel focused on post-secondary decision making. • We are then going to give you time to work in pairs as you finalize your post-secondary choice. <i>Let pairs know what time mentees will be dismissed from the event. Share any housekeeping logistics (where the restrooms are, how to get your attention during the event if they need it, introduce other school and event staff in the room, etc.).</i>
Chat and Chew: Post-Secondary Decision Panel (35 min)	TALKING POINTS • As you eat dinner, you will be listening to our panelists share how they came to their post-secondary decision. LAUNCHING THE PANEL • <i>You should aim for 3-4 participants, these can be mentors, teachers, and/or former students.</i> • <i>Start off by introducing each panelist (name, post-secondary pathway of choice, current career)</i> • <i>Use the questions below to guide your panel discussion.</i> 1. What factors influenced your decision to pursue your post-secondary pathway? Were there any specific events, people, or experiences that played a significant role in shaping your choice? 2. How did you identify your academic interests or passion areas that guided your decision? 3. Did you consider any alternative paths or options before finalizing your post-secondary decision? If so, what were they, and what made you ultimately choose the path you did? 4. Were there any challenges or obstacles you faced during the decision-making process? How did you overcome them? 5. In hindsight, do you believe your post-secondary decision was the right one for you? Why or why not? 6. If you could give one piece of advice to current students who are struggling with their post-secondary decision, what would it be?

My Post-Secondary Decision - Work Time (40 min)	TALKING POINTS ● We are now going to transition into working on comparing and contrasting your post-secondary options. ● You will have to make a decision shortly on which pathway you want to take, we want to ensure that you have all the information available to make an informed decision. ● Please use this time to work on two important tasks: - Use the Award Letter Guide to break down the cost of each post-secondary option. - Use the Fit Factor Guide to compare your post-secondary options. <i>Debrief after work time:</i> Have you arrived at your final choice? If not, what information do you still need in order to make your choice?
Closing (10 min)	ANNOUNCEMENTS ● Share the date of the next event. ● Remind pairs to continue their weekly communication. ● Express gratitude and appreciation for their dedication to the program. ● Share any school-specific context and updates.

Mentor Huddle: Comparing Post-Secondary Options

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Ice Breaker (7 min)	TALKING POINTS ● Thank you so much for joining our event today! ● We are going to start off with a quick ice breaker. In groups of three, please share how you are coping with supporting your mentee as they have been receiving admission's decisions. What has been going well? What has been a struggle? <i>Ask a few mentors to share their thoughts.</i>
Helping Your Mentee Compare Options (10 min)	TALKING POINTS ● As your mentee is receiving their admission's decisions, they will need to narrow down their options to one final decision. This can prove to be a tricky process. ● We will be using the fit factors framework in class to help mentees narrow down their options. ● Does anyone remember any of the fit factors we covered in last year's curriculum? Shout them out if so. ● Our fit factors are program size, location, diversity, academic match, student supports offered, and financial fit. Students should be researching each fit factor for every program they are accepted into. Keeping track of the fit factors for each program and being able to weigh the pros/cons of each environment will help them make an informed decision. ● You can help them compile this research into the senior year Fit Factor Guide located on the Platform. We suggest that you own the note taking of this process and reference the facts that you have learned as you help your mentee make their final decision. ● As your mentee is considering their options, please remember that this decision is theirs to make. Refrain from passing judgment on their choice and, instead, approach the situation with curiosity. ● Let's look at an example. Let's say your mentee has repeatedly stated that they wanted to attend a small program but are now sharing that they are strongly considering a big state school. You can say something to the effect of, "I've heard you share that a small program is important to you, what has made you change your mind?" By approaching with curiosity, instead of shooting down their decision, you are more likely to have them think critically about their choice. ● Does anyone have any questions they would like to ask? Does anyone have a challenging situation they would like to present to the group and receive support?

Announcements/ Closings (3 min)	TALKING POINTS: ● Share any important school/program updates. ● Encourage mentors to leave their mentee an app message after the event in which they reiterate how excited they were to meet with them/how they are looking forward to the next meeting. ● Thank mentors for attending the event. ● Remind mentors that they can always reach out for support.
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