



Pair Event: Considering My Options



EVENT OBJECTIVES

Pairs will compare and contrast post-secondary options to help inform the mentee in the decision they will soon be making.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

This event is centered around analyzing award letters and comparing fit factors so as to help mentees arrive at a post-secondary decision.

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)

5 min	Welcome
25 min	Chat and Chew: Post-Secondary Choices
50 min	My Post-Secondary Pathway
10 min	Closing
20 min	Mentor Huddle: Unpacking Admissions Decisions

FACILITATOR NOTES

Make sure students can access the following guides: Post-Secondary Tracker, Award Letter Guide, Fit Factor Guide. We recommend placing these in a digital container such as google classroom so students can work with their mentor to fill out each document.

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 an impactful event in store for you. • We are growing closer to the end of the school year and the beginning of the mentees' post-secondary pathway. • Today's event will give you space to unpack post-secondary options and decide which pathway is the best fit! <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 Choices (25 min)	TALKING POINTS • Before we launch into comparing and contrasting post-secondary options, let's chat and chew. • As you are eating, please find another pair to engage with. You have discussion questions on the first page of your packet. • <i>Last five minutes of chat and chew:</i> Can I have a few mentors and mentees share out what they discussed in their group?
My Post-Secondary Pathway (50 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 three important tasks: - Update your post-secondary tracker with your school/program outcomes - 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: Which pathway are you leaning towards? Why?</i>

Closing (10 min)	ANNOUNCEMENT ● 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.
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Mentor Huddle: Unpacking Post-Secondary Admissions Decisions	
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Ice Breaker (7 min)	TALKING POINTS ● Thank you so much for joining our event today! Let's start off with a quick ice breaker. ● In pairs of two, please think back to your own experience with processing post-secondary admission's decisions. How did you feel as you heard back from post-secondary programs? ● <i>Ask a few mentors to share out their thoughts.</i>
Unpacking Admissions Decisions (10 min)	TALKING POINTS ● As a reminder, there are four possible admission's outcomes for your mentee: they can be admitted, conditionally admitted, waitlisted, or denied admission by their programs. ● Acceptances may initially appear to be the easiest for students to process. However, we can't take this for granted. Sometimes acceptances come with conflict. Perhaps the student is very bought into the program, but their guardian isn't. Perhaps the financial aid being offered doesn't meet their needs. Point is, we can't assume that all acceptances will be received positively. ● A conditional admittance differs from a standard admittance because the mentee will have to complete set requirements to receive a full acceptance. They might have to take and pass specific summer programming or elevate their current grades to a certain level. Note – many opportunity programs only offer conditional admittances because students must first pass required summer classes.

	• Being waitlisted is usually received with some confusion. Mentees find themselves in limbo. They will have to write an appeal letter to the program to see if they can get off the waitlist. Even if they are eventually moved to the accepted category, they may not receive the financial aid necessary to attend because they will not be prioritized for financial aid based on the timing of their acceptance. • And finally, a mentee can be rejected from a program. It is important to remind your mentee that rejections are not personal. The admission's counselors are basing their decisions on an application that cannot, in any way, truly measure the abilities of the young person. • As your mentee begins to hear back from programs, make sure to check in with them to see how they are feeling about the situation. Refrain from making assumptions about how they may be feeling and, instead, ask open ended questions to gauge where they are at emotionally. • Should your mentee display concerning emotions or behaviors, please make sure to reach out to me. Your mentee has an entire community committed to supporting them through this process. • I am going to open the space for questions surrounding admission's decisions. This is your time to ask anything that comes to mind.
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.