Work-based learning is a national educational initiative to provide avenues for all students to connect their educational goals and skills to occupational opportunities. The initiative's goal is to ensure a seamless transition from high school to meaningful, high-quality employment or further education. Mentors involved in work-based learning help students enrich their lives, enjoy learning, and experience success in the workplace. This report describes the partnership of Wisconsin business and industry with the public education system to help achieve a competent, competitive, and productive work force, and provides guidance in preparing and teaching workplace mentors. The guide describes mentorship, provides a common language for work-based learning, details work-based learning relationships and responsibilities, suggests roles for all stakeholders, offers guidance to develop constructive communication, and includes activities and exercises to prepare mentors. The material is designed to be presented as a half-day workshop or as a pair of 2-hour workshop sessions for prospective mentors. Section 1, "Mentoring," describes learning style differences, mentor-student relationships, roles and responsibilities, and communication strategies. Section 2, "Work-Based Learning," describes the options available in Wisconsin, the work-based learning environment, the learning plan, and evaluation of student learning. Section 3 includes lesson topics and relevant forms. (KB)
Mentoring Youth for Success
Mentoring Youth for Success

William W. Gray
Lifework Education Team
1996

Bryan Albrecht
Director
1999

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Madison, WI
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Wisconsin educators are part of a revolutionary partnership between the public education system and business and industry. Mentoring activities represent opportunities for schools and business to work together in helping to achieve a competent, competitive, and productive workforce.

Through work-based learning objectives, such as cooperative education, state certified cooperative education, youth apprenticeship, job shadowing, and general work experience programs, our educational system can gain a closer connection to the world of work and offer students an education with increased relevance to life after school.

It is important that worksite mentors be given supporting material when taking on the responsibility of helping students learn the skills and ins and outs of being successful at a particular worksite. This resource guide for mentoring students was designed to assist teachers and mentors in understanding some of the critical elements in successful mentor-student relationships.

The result is a winning scenario for all: Students are better prepared for the world of work, and industries gain new workers trained in their fields. Whether you are a student, parent, business operator, teacher, or student mentor, you have much to gain and an important role to play in connecting learning with the workplace.

John T. Benson
State Superintendent
Materials found in this resource are a collection of successful examples of youth mentoring practices. We appreciate the work of our colleagues whose professional skills transformed our drafts from a manuscript into these printed pages.

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A special thanks are due to Kathy Addie, Marilyn Bachim, and Nancy Weis for their help in the production of this document.
Howard Gardner notes that guiding students to a field where their talents best suit them is the “single most important contribution education can make to a child’s development.”

Work-based learning is a national educational initiative to provide avenues for all students to connect their educational goals and skills to occupational opportunities. The goal of a work-based learning program is to ensure that students experience a seamless transition from high school to meaningful, high-quality employment or further education. Learning about the world of work makes schooling more relevant and helps students become productive citizens upon graduation.

Mentors involved in work-based learning help students enrich their lives, enjoy learning, and experience success in the workplace. A successful mentor can increase the level of school and work integration in the educational system and help students gain an awareness of themselves and the world of work.

A Note to Work-based Learning Coordinators

Congratulations on accepting the challenges and rewards of leadership in work-based learning. Your role as leader and coordinator includes guiding mentors to success with students as they learn about the world of work. Mentor-student relationships are very important to Wisconsin’s work-based learning programs including youth apprenticeships, Wisconsin Cooperative Education Skill Standards Certificate Program, and other cooperative education programs.

This guide is designed to aid you in preparing and teaching workplace mentors. It will also serve as an informative resource for parents, employers, and others interested in work-based learning and mentorship as well as self-educated mentors.

This guide describes mentorship, provides a common language for work-based learning, details work-based learning relationships and responsibilities, suggests roles for all stakeholders, offers guidance to develop constructive communication, and includes activities and exercises to prepare mentors. There are also sections on mentoring young learners; Wisconsin’s work-based learning programs; and mentoring activities, examples and checklists. These sections may be adapted to whatever will best serve you, your mentors, and your students.

This material can be presented as a half-day or as a pair of two-hour workshop sessions for prospective mentors. One popular option is to schedule breakfast sessions, for example. Of course, the final schedule should be one that meets participants’ needs.
Mentoring

The Mentor
Working with Young People
Learning Style Differences
Mentor-Student Relationships
Roles and Responsibilities
Communication Strategies
The Mentor

The mentor is the person who connects the culture of school with the culture of work. The mentor serves to "translate" the world of work into a language and experience the student can understand. Mentors also serve as models of successful and responsible working adults.

Serving as a mentor requires time and energy. The mentor must exhibit a willingness to patiently guide a young person through an unfamiliar world and to look out for the student's interests in the workplace. At the same time, mentors report that they feel a sense of contribution to society and future generations and to the future productivity of industry. "The curriculum enhanced our training program for new employees," said one employer. "We saw some unanticipated benefits," said another, "and we learn from the student."

Working with Young People

The mentor should be aware of the particular needs of learners. Adolescents of 16, 17, or 18 years of age learn from direct instruction as well as reflection on their lived experience. Young adults want to understand the principles behind actions. They learn by observing and imitating co-workers and other adults.

Like others, young people want to be successful. Even small successes are important for learning and for future success. At times, however, students may not realize their own limitations or the limitations of the job. They may expect or try to take on too much, too fast. Students may need help to determine appropriate goals and the best way to achieve them.

The mentor should understand that young people are often insecure during adolescence. They value the respect of adults around them, even though they may not know how to gain it. Young people have a deep need to be accepted as individuals. Young adults hate to be laughed at and may avoid asking questions for fear of appearing silly. Adolescent adults can be hard on themselves, sensitive to criticism, and critical of others, as well. They expect much from adults and may feel let down when their expectations are not met. However, when they are treated as adults, young people are more likely to respond with adult behavior.

Students often want different things from a job than adults want. Social relations are important to young adults; they want to like the people they work with and to be liked by them. Helping students become valued employees will help them accept themselves and their mentor.

See Remembering Mentors activity on page 17.
Reminders about Learning and Young People

These next few reminders will help the mentor serve in an effective and supportive manner.
- Behaviors reinforced are repeated.
- Behaviors not reinforced are eliminated.
- Learners and learning are influenced by:
  - family and community support
  - socioeconomic background
  - culture
  - maturity
  - gender
  - aptitude
  - interests
  - initiative
- Young learners need to:
  - feel good about themselves
  - experience accomplishment
  - be respected
  - be challenged
  - have an opportunity to learn, earn, make choices, and show progress
  - have significant interaction with adults
  - engage in applied learning with tangible results
  - understand their experiences in literal, concrete terms

Learning Style Differences

Everyone learns differently. Some prefer to learn in school, others out of school; some in groups, and others alone. Learning is influenced by the instructional environment as well as the student's own personal qualities such as temperament, sensory strengths and weaknesses, unique physical needs, concrete and abstract thinking abilities, and learning preferences.

Humans learn in a variety of ways. These learning styles have been described in simplest terms as auditory, visual, and tactile/kinesthetic. Auditory learners learn best by listening. They like stories, jokes, and music; remember what they hear; tend to have a large vocabulary, and like to talk. Visual learners learn best when they read and see diagrams or pictures. Tactile learners (also referred to as applied, hands-on, kinesthetic, or experiential learners) learn best when they handle and physically manipulate things.

Although students often favor one learning style, most use a combination of different styles. It can be very effective for teachers and mentors to use different teaching approaches including written instructions, verbal instructions, and demonstrations.
Mentor-Student Relationships

The mentor-student relationship can be thought of as developing in two stages: initiation and mentoring.

During the initiation stage, students may view the mentor with inflated esteem and honor. The student may feel awkward or incompetent. Both may feel vulnerable. A mentor who is aware of a student's needs can take steps to affirm the student's sense of worth. One way to facilitate open communication, for example, is for the mentor to tell the student that no one person has all the right answers and that there are no wrong questions.

In the mentoring stage, support and encouragement are emphasized. The mentor facilitates student growth as the young adult moves toward increased responsibilities for gaining knowledge, for acquiring skills, for making honest self-evaluations, and for making tentative career plans. At all times, however, the quality of the mentor-student relationship depends on the quality of communication. For example, a "yes" or a head nod may not necessarily indicate student understanding; students should be asked, in a supportive way, to explain and demonstrate what they learn.

Roles and Responsibilities

Adults involved in mentoring or working with mentors should be aware of their responsibilities in their roles. The following roles may overlap.

- Mentors may need to:
  - remember the special social and learning needs of adolescents;
  - mediate among trainers, supervisors, and students;
  - inform the student about workplace norms, customs, social relations, and expectations;
  - provide consistent, caring support and guidance to the student; and
  - maintain regular contact with the teacher coordinator regarding student progress.

- Worksite trainers may need to:
  - act as coach and/or model;
  - provide instruction in industry and workplace competencies;
  - educate the student about workplace safety;
  - evaluate student progress and certify skill achievement; and
  - report concerns about learning and behavior to the teacher coordinator.

- Worksite supervisors may need to:
  - articulate responsibilities and expectations to the student and appropriate co-workers from the start;
  - assist on developing the student training plan;
  - communicate regularly with the teacher coordinator, trainer, mentor and student about student progress; and
  - evaluate student progress.

See Student Orientation checklist on page 18.
The long-term goal of work-based education is to encourage students to assume increasing responsibility for learning new skills, evaluating progress, and setting new learning objectives. Students will learn how to seek information and apply it to their work. Students also learn to seek feedback about their work performance, ask questions, identify concerns, and improve their questioning and communication.

**Constructive Feedback**

Feedback, when given appropriately, can encourage the learner to take responsibility for his or her behavior and for changing that behavior when necessary. The effective use of positive and negative feedback builds trust and promotes productive working relationships. Feedback should be based on predetermined standards. Casual praise or criticism tends to distract students from the learning tasks.

Positive feedback recognizes student successes and can be an effective motivator. It helps to maintain high standards and can lead to further improvement.

Negative feedback informs students of unmet standards or expectations. When linked to analysis and discussion as to how performance can be improved, negative feedback can also serve as an effective motivator.

Most students want to perform well and meet or exceed expectations. But some factors can limit a student’s ability to perform well.
- Students may perform less successfully when they:
  - do not know what constitutes a “good job” in terms of expectations, goals, standards, outcomes, or results;
  - lack necessary resources such as time, tools, information, or skills;
  - encounter obstacles that interfere with their performance; or
  - lack feedback about their performance and how to improve.

**Open-Ended Communication**

Open-ended questions and statements can encourage communication beyond simple, yes/no responses.
- Open-ended communication can:
  - initiate conversations;
  - communicate a mentor’s willingness to help;
  - allow students to voice questions and concerns;
  - invite students to explain their understanding more fully; and
  - allow for a safe focus on student feelings and concerns.

In contrast, closed questions, which require only a “yes” or “no” response, can inhibit discussion, keep students “in their place,” and imply a lack of interest on the part of the adult.

See *Open-Ended Communication* examples on page 19.
Active Listening

Active listening is an approach to hearing someone and responding with certain purposes. Several active listening skills can be used to improve communication.

- Mirroring the student's feelings can:
  - show interest or concern;
  - foster a nonjudgmental atmosphere; and
  - show acceptance of student feelings.

- Restating the student's words can:
  - confirm shared understanding of facts, procedures or feelings;
  - encourage further discussion;
  - communicate respect for student effort; and
  - elicit more detail (when restating with a questioning tone).

- Summarizing major ideas during discussions can:
  - check for common understanding; and
  - move discussion to another topic.

- Paraphrasing interprets student words to:
  - show understanding, interest, and acceptance; and
  - clarify meaning.

- Pausing before speaking can:
  - foster student thinking and learning;
  - allow the student to rethink matters; and
  - show respect for the student's ideas.

Conflict Resolution

Inevitably, disagreements and conflicts will arise. At such times it will be helpful to use techniques to aid in conflict resolution.

- To work toward resolving conflict, one should:
  - listen to the other person patiently;
  - accept the conflict as a mutual problem;
  - welcome the opportunity to solve problems together;
  - allow for a cooling-off period; and
  - involve the teacher coordinator.

See Conflict activity on page 20
Communicating Effectively as a Mentor

This list of ideas will help mentors develop effective strategies for communicating with students.

- Use clear, simple language.
- Be patient, resourceful, respectful, and flexible.
- Make liberal use of analogy, comparison, example, and illustration.
- Use visual aids when appropriate.
- Develop a logical sequence of simple-to-difficult and step-by-step techniques.
- Build student knowledge and background gradually.
- Explain and define new terms.
- Use the technique of "show and tell."
- Point out relationships of parts and processes and include concepts, history, relationships, and uses when explaining parts and processes.
- Encourage questions as well as ask them.
- Call attention to highlights.
- Summarize often.
- Share information about background, professional experiences, and satisfactions.
- Help student clarify goals.
- Compile a list of activities that meets teaching goals.
- Schedule regular meetings, feedback sessions, and a concluding session with the student.
- Formulate a clear set of skills the student will need to learn and practice.
- Revisit the learning plan with each student on a regular basis.
- Listen carefully.
- Be sensitive to gender and cross-cultural differences.
Wisconsin's Work-Based Learning Experiences
The Work-Based Learning Environment
The Learning Plan
Evaluation / Assessment
Wisconsin’s Work-Based Learning Experiences

Wisconsin’s work-based learning experiences include a variety of options that can be adapted to best meet the needs of the student, employer, and curriculum. These various options are explored below.

Cooperative Education

Cooperative education is instruction in vocational education for students who, through a written cooperative agreement between the school and an employer, receive instruction, including required academic courses and related vocational instruction, by alternating study in school with a job. In Wisconsin, fields eligible for cooperative education include family and consumer education, business, marketing, technology education, agribusiness and health occupations. The cooperative education program typically takes place during a student’s senior year of study.

Wisconsin’s Cooperative Education State Skill Standards Certificate Program

The Wisconsin program builds on the cooperative education definition by adding state-approved competencies developed by industry and educators. Cooperative education students work toward mastering these competencies and receive a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency (as well as a high school diploma) when the proficiencies are achieved.

Youth Apprenticeship

This program combines academic and technical classroom instruction with workplace learning in a four-semester, state-approved curriculum for juniors and seniors. Mastering the competencies developed by industry and educators qualifies the student for a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency.

Work Experience

Students participate in a school-supervised work experience, typically during the school day. At the same time, students learn general employability skills in the classroom. Participants do not have to be enrolled in a vocational class, but must be supervised by a licensed teacher employed by the school district.

Job Shadowing

As a part of career exploration in middle school or early high school years, students observe an employee at a workplace for a period of hours, a whole day, or, in some cases, over several days, to learn about the business, industry, or profession. Students do not perform productive work and are not paid for the experience.
Internship

While "internship" is not a term commonly used in Wisconsin to reflect secondary work-based learning, some schools use the term instead of "cooperative education" to describe the local work experience program. Internship is a school-approved program where students work for an employer for a specific period of time to learn about a particular industry or occupation. Activities may include special projects, a sample of tasks from different jobs within the enterprise, or tasks from a single job. Students may or may not be paid in an internship.

Service Learning

Service learning is a method of teaching whereby students learn and develop through active, unpaid, participation in organized academic and practical activities that are conducted in and designed to meet the needs of their communities. Service learning may take place in the school, the community at large, in nonprofit community agencies, private businesses or government agencies. By allowing students to venture out of the classroom to examine the world around them, and by providing them with opportunities to address the problems they see, service learning teaches young people that they have the power to change their communities and their world for the better.


Students participate in a school-supervised program (in any content area) with the goal of learning employability skills and occupation specific skills, completing a career plan, and engaging in a paid or unpaid work-based experience. Students who complete all program requirements receive an Employability Skills Certificate awarded by the state.

The Work-Based Learning Environment

Safety

All employers strive to provide a safe working environment for employees through safety education and other means. Safety instruction is also an important part of instruction for students enrolled in work-based education programs. The instructional program on certified cooperative education requires a minimum of 15 hours of safety instruction. This is also recommended for any work-based programs a school offers. The mentor and teacher coordinator should work together to plan instruction on safety with work procedures, materials, and equipment.
Other matters that may need to be addressed by the mentor and teacher coordinator include the following elements:

- worksite policies
- transportation
- work permit
- school policies on absenteeism and academic performance
- emergency procedures
- conflict resolution procedures
- the Fair Labor Standards Act
- child labor law limitations

One source of further information on labor law is the Department of Workforce Development, Equal Rights Division, 1 S. Pinckney, Room 320, P.O. Box 8928, Madison, WI 53708; (608) 266-6860, (608) 264-8752 TDD (hearing impaired), fax (608) 267-4592; www.dwd.state.wi.us/er/

**Equal Access**

According to Wisconsin law, no one “may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person’s sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.” (s. 118.13, Wis. Stats.)

**Equal Treatment**

The workplace should be a place where all are treated fairly. This requires a workplace free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual behavior that occurs when one person has power over another.

Sexual harassment occurs when the behavior is:

- unwanted or unwelcome;
- sexual or related to the gender of the person; and
- in the context of a relationship where one person has more power than the others.

Such power includes formal power or power derived from a person’s status or position (as in a supervisor-employee or a staff-student relationship) and informal or perceived power (as in a relationship between peers).

Sexual harassment violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In Wisconsin, employers and others are prohibited from “engaging in sexual harassment, or implicitly or explicitly making or permitting acquiesces in or submission to sexual harassment a term or condition of employment or the basis or any part of the basis for any employment decision affecting an employee; or permitting sexual harassment to substantially interfere with an employee’s work performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.” (s. 111.36, Wis. Stats.)
Furthermore, no employer, labor organization, employment agency, licensing agency or other person may engage in any act of employment discrimination against any individual on the basis of age, race, creed, color, handicap, marital status, sex, national origin, ancestry, arrest record or conviction record, or membership in the national guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military forces of the United States or this state. (s. 111.321, Wis. Stats.)

The Learning Plan

The learning plan and the evaluation or assessment of learning are negotiated by the teacher coordinator, employer, mentor, and student prior to each grading period. The learning plan states which competencies the student will learn and demonstrate in school, in a career and technical student organization activity (related instruction), and/or on the worksite. It includes a record of the student's progress in mastering each competency. The learning plan also details the shared expectations of the co-op partners and acts as a link between school and worksite.

Generally, students are expected to work on approximately 25 competencies per quarter in certified cooperative education programs. The learning plan needs to flexibly address the school curriculum and the student's schedule, school activities, and worksite activities.

Once the learning plan is completed, the workplace mentor, student, parents, and teacher coordinator sign the learning plan and use it for assessment at the end of the grading period. Additional tasks and competencies to be mastered and assessed during the next grading period are determined and a new learning plan is designed, shared, and signed.

Sample Learning Plan is on page 21.

Evaluation / Assessment

The evaluation/assessment process is designed to obtain meaningful and useful information about the student's progress in meeting academic and skills standards or learning goals. Each member of the team (teacher coordinator, mentor, and student) must agree on their expectations regarding the assessment criteria, including the meaning of competencies and how students will demonstrate those competencies.

Assessment of the student's performance must be based on the learning plan developed by the mentor, student, and teacher coordinator.

- Reasons for assessment include:
  - identification of learner needs
  - analysis of progress
  - summary of learning
- Methods of assessment are:
  - observation of student performance
  - written tests, diaries, or reports
  - verbal inquiry into student performance
  - use of checklists indicating competency
  - authentic performance tasks or scenarios
- Criteria for assessment includes:
  - content as both process and product
  - level of quality or level of proficiency

Working together, the workplace mentor and teacher coordinator evaluate the student's performance for each task and competency previously identified, whether mastered at work, school, or both. For areas in which the student receives a low rating, the mentor should identify specific competencies and suggest ways the student can improve performance. For those areas in which the student excels, the mentor should provide examples to illustrate outstanding performance.

Once the evaluation is complete, the teacher coordinator and mentor should meet with the student to discuss the evaluation, identify areas for improvement, inform the student of suggestions for improvement, identify strengths on the job and in the classroom, and provide evidence to support the evaluation. The process continues as the learning plan for the next grading period is negotiated.

Sample Mentor Activity Log can be found on page 22.
Activities

Lesson Topics
Remembering Mentors – Thinking Like a Student
Student Orientation to the Workplace
Open-Ended Communication
Thinking Ahead About Conflict
Learning Plan
Mentor Activity Log
Lesson Topics

The materials used to teach mentors should be consistent with individual learner needs, interpersonal relationships, and available time and resources.

The following lesson topics include a range of ideas to draw from in teaching mentoring skills:

- defining mentor roles and responsibilities
- respecting diversity
- strategies for preventing, diffusing and resolving conflict
- school and work: bridging the gap
- effective communication with adolescents
- self-esteem and the adolescent
- facilitation teams
- problem solving
- principles of management and self management
- workplace curriculum development
- identifying and sequencing tasks
- job tasks analysis/curriculum development (DACUM)
- instruction in all aspects of the industry and broad skill development
- accessing resources
- developing and expanding on basic skills
- managing student rotation and coordinating learning across departments
- incorporating individual student needs into learning plan development
- methods of worksite assessment (including portfolios and projects)
- setting benchmarks
- construction projects for the workplace
- structuring progressive skill mastery
- effective assessment techniques
- working with various learning styles
- working with teams
- selecting appropriate media to maximize student learning
- scaffolding (providing support to make sure students succeed at complex tasks) and determining appropriate intervention points
- reflection techniques and strategies
- effective instructional techniques
- creating and using learning plans

The materials on the following pages can be used to train mentors in formal and informal teaching situations and to aid mentors in their roles.
**Remembering Mentors—Thinking Like a Student**

**Part 1**

Did you have a mentor—formally or informally—as a child or young adult? List your mentor(s) in the space provided and describe how your mentor(s) exhibited the identified qualities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listened actively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understandable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open to questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interested in my growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set an example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respectful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had high expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted best efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluated fairly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 2**

Hold a group discussion to share real or ideal qualities of effective mentors.

**Part 3**

Which of these qualities are you good at and which need improvement?

**Part 4**

Describe some ways you as a mentor could help your student.
Student Orientation to the Workplace

Within a few days after completing the following orientation, review the list to ensure full understanding by the student.

- Introduce the student to persons with whom the student will have contact.
- Show the student the location of necessary equipment and supplies.
- Explain the duties of the student’s initial task.
- Arrange a meeting with the student’s designated supervisor(s).
- Discuss with co-workers their relationship to the student and solicit their cooperation.
- Inform the student of arrival time, quitting time, check-in and check-out procedures, and who to contact when an absence is unavoidable.
- Inform the student of meal and break times and of relief procedures and regulations.
- Assist the student in locating rest rooms, the lunchroom, a telephone, the coat rack, and other important sites.
- Identify appropriate clothing for the student’s job.
- Inform the student of timekeeping procedures, pay schedules, deductions from pay, and computation of wages.
- Discuss confidentiality issues and rules.
- Familiarize the student with employee benefits, if appropriate.
- Inform the student of promotional possibilities.
- Train the student in proper safety procedures for all equipment and work situations.
Open-Ended Communication

Open-ended questions and statements foster communication beyond simple yes/no responses. Develop open-ended questions for your own mentoring situation using the examples provided. Record them in the open column below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Further examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiate conversations</td>
<td>&quot;How do you like working here so far?&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicate willingness to help</td>
<td>&quot;Let me know if you need a hand with...&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow students to voice questions and concerns</td>
<td>&quot;What problems have you encountered?&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invite students to explain their understanding more fully</td>
<td>&quot;What would you do if...?&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Thinking Ahead about Conflict**

Consider the following scenarios and devise one or more strategies for dealing with the situation before it develops into a conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Strategies/Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The computer, to be shared by several students at the worksite, is monopolized by one student, creating resentment among the others.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The star athlete is often late getting to work. The student does good work but claims that other responsibilities cause the tardiness.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two students are performing work differently. One is often successful and the other is only sometimes successful, but improving. The better worker resents getting paid the same as the other; the other worker resents being outdone. Their conflict is affecting their work and those around them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The regular workers see the presence of students at the worksite as a threat to their job security.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One student states that they will be going to college after graduation. Some of the regular workers call the student “college kid” and resist helping them.</td>
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<td>A student appears hurt and defeated when the job-task trainer criticizes the student as being too slow.</td>
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<td>As another scenario, describe a conflict from your own experience as a mentor, how it was handled, and how the way in which it was handled could have been improved.</td>
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</table>
# Learning Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies</th>
<th>Related Instruction</th>
<th>Where Observed</th>
<th>Date Observed</th>
<th>Observer</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Student Signature

Teacher Coordinator Signature

Workplace Mentor Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature
## Mentor Activity Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics Discussed</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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Resources


Visit National Service Learning Clearinghouse's website at http://www.wmn.edu/~serve or send e-mail to serve@tc.umn.edu or call 1-800-808-SERVE or 1-800-808-7378 for technical assistance with questions.


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