

## TIPS FOR FINDING A SENIOR PROJECT MENTOR

Once you have decided on a topic or a few choices for topics, it's time to find a mentor. Here are some helpful tips.

**Network, Network, Network!!! - The first person you contact may not end up being your mentor, BUT they might be the person who helps you find a mentor.**

Ask people you know for help. They know you and you trust them!

- Ask someone you know if they will be your mentor. (Of course, they must have the necessary experience or expertise to be your mentor.)
- If they can't help, ask them if they know other people who could mentor you.
- Brainstorm with them about possible mentors. They have connections. They have ideas.

Do some work on your own. Being independent is important for a successful Senior Project.

- Do some research on the internet or social media.
- Do a drop in...at a business, a college or university, or a town government office

Be ready to go outside your comfort zone. Contacting a person you don't know to ask them for help can be stressful, but this is a skill you will need as a senior and when you leave high school!

- Speaking to someone in person or by phone call is the most effective way to make the first contact. Keep your introduction simple:  
    "Hi, my name is...  
    I will be a senior at Narragansett High School and I need to complete a Senior Project.  
    I need a mentor for my project and I was hoping you could be my mentor.  
    For my project, I want to..."
- Meeting in person is important so you can ask or answer questions, explain your project idea, and go over the basic requirements for mentors. You will start to build a connection!
- E-mail is okay if that's the only option or you know that it is the person's preferred form of contact.  
    Follow the same, simple script as an in-person meeting or phone call.  
    Make it formal (greeting, full sentences, salutation)

Important issues to discuss:

- A mentor's responsibilities (use handout)
- The location where you will do your mentoring and complete your product.
- Timing: What time frame did you have for working on and completing your project?
- Any special availability issues:

- Does your mentor go out of state for an extended period of time (all winter, a whole month; certain weeks every month, etc.)?
- Do they have certain times of year when they are very busy at work?
- Do you play sports, work at night or on weekends, go away for school vacations?

**You don't have to get into a lot of details, but you don't want any surprises!!**

Use the resources the school provides you:

- Forms
- Handouts
- Senior Project website