

MENTORSHIP

Teacher Resource

WHAT IS MENTORSHIP?

Giving or asking for support, guidance, training or expertise.

BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.912.R.3.1** Identify benefits of voting, volunteering, **mentoring** and seeking leadership positions. Clarification: Student government, school clubs and volunteering in the community.

- ✓ **HE.912.R.3.2** Analyze ways a leader can inspire confidence and motivate others.

PURPOSE

- These interactive activities will help your students explore the characteristic of **mentorship** in leadership positions and how **mentorship** can be used to inspire confidence and motivate others. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **mentorship**.



Suggested Introduction:

“You are familiar with **mentorship** and what it looks like to ask or give support, guidance, training or expertise. **Mentorship** is a valuable tool that leaders can use to inspire confidence and motivate others. By offering guidance, sharing experiences and providing encouragement, **mentors** help others see their potential and believe in their abilities. Good **mentors** listen and support, showing they care about the success of those they **mentor**.”



Activities to Build Mentorship:

1 Resiliency Reading Connection

Share *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller from the Resiliency Reading List to teach students some of Helen Keller’s accomplishments. Helen Keller demonstrated incredible resilience in pursuing her dreams of independence and attending college. She had a goal of attending Harvard College. Despite some setbacks and the challenges she faced daily, she finally entered Radcliffe College, a Harvard Annex for women, in 1900. There were additional hurdles she encountered while studying at Radcliffe, such as the lack of braille textbooks and the difficulty of her coursework, but Helen never gave up. Helen recounts the life-changing difference her teacher, Anne Sullivan, made in helping her learn to read, write and speak. With the **mentorship** of Miss Sullivan and her own determination, Helen wrote *The Story of My Life* while she was still a student and graduated from Radcliffe in 1904. Discuss with students the perspective of Helen Keller as the mentee and Miss Sullivan as the **mentor**. Visit buildresiliency.org to learn about other books listed on the Resiliency Reading List; each title has a corresponding Family Reading Guide.

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Activities to Build Mentorship (Continued):

2 Explore Volunteer Florida

Have students visit the Volunteer Florida website (volunteerflorida.org) together and explore the various resources and information about volunteerism. Click on “Volunteer Services,” then “Find Volunteer Opportunities,” to check out different opportunities in your local community. Some of the volunteer opportunities may include practicing the characteristic of **mentorship**, such as tutoring younger students. Invite the school counselor to share with students how to track service hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

3 Career Mentors

Have students take a look at Xello (xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/), Florida's official K–12 career planning and work-based platform to consider various career paths, which may lead to the need for **mentors** to help along the way. Then, have students seek out a **mentor** from the school or community who has demonstrated success in a similar career. Have students generate two or three questions to ask this potential **mentor**. Have students take notes of the **mentor's** responses and write a brief reflection addressing what they learned about the career or industry, how the **mentor's** experience changed or confirmed their interest, and a moment from the interview where honesty, responsibility or strong communication stood out. As a follow up, encourage students to present a short summary of their reflection to the class as a powerpoint slideshow or poster.

Example questions could include:

- What educational steps did you take to achieve this career?
- Can you share your career path and how you developed your goals along the way?



Suggested Wrap-Up:

“You have explored **mentorship** throughout your schooling. As you move beyond high school, how can you use this characteristic in your everyday life? **Mentorship** is a chance to not only guide others but also to leave a lasting impact by helping them discover their potential and achieve their goals.”