



## Where to Begin

Introduce yourself! Connecting with your student early on in the project will increase communication down the line.



- Speak to your experience with the subject matter. What drew you to their project?
- Give a few fun facts about yourself or your career path.
- Schedule a video conference. Conferencing at the beginning of the project will help you and your student get to know each other and increase accountability.



- What is the timeline of your project?
- What are your research goals?
- What would you like to achieve through this research?
- What is your research question?



“I feel like my mentor is someone I can go to with any STEM related questions and has provided me with a role model of sorts to look up to when continuing in research. I now have more interest in the sciences after the support and feedback my mentor was able to provide me.”

- MME Student

Set expectations at the beginning of the project.



- Ask for the project timeline, requirements, and communication goals.
- Include how often you will be able to communicate with your mentee.
- If you are going on vacation or will be unable to communicate, please inform your student that you will be unable to respond to them. Include a date that they can next expect to hear from you.

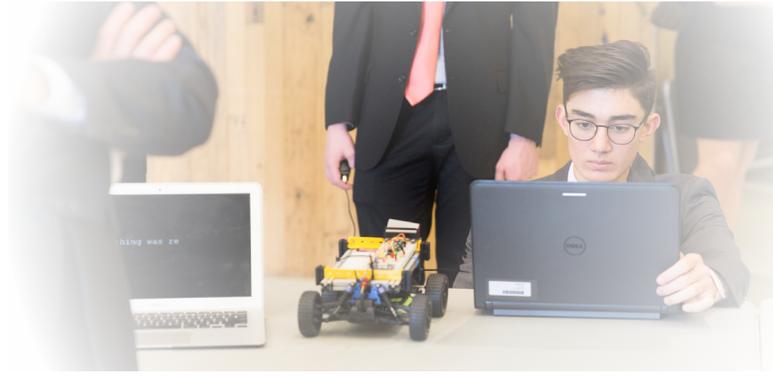


- Does the project require a final paper? Data collection/surveys? A prototype?
- In which stage of the project do you anticipate needing the most help?
- What technical skills, if any, do you need to master for the project? (coding, data organization, etc.)



“I received good information at the beginning of the engagement regarding timeline, course information (which the teacher provided), and what my student was interested in investigating, so this was all helpful to set expectations and go in with a clear understanding of the parameters of the engagement.”

- Mentor



## Continuing the Conversation

Be proactive.



- MME projects are student led, but students may need extra support developing a back and forth on the platform.
- Haven't heard from your mentee? Reach out to them to check up on their project!
- Provide resources and articles for your student to review. You don't have to be an expert in every facet of their project. Help lead them in the right direction for further research.



- Have you finished data collection?
- What stage of the project are you in now?
- Let me know when you've finished XYZ stage! What are your next steps?



"I gained a lot more confidence in conveying my ideas to other people in a way that was easy to follow. By speaking with my mentor, I was able to communicate the ideas easier which translated to a better presentation of my ideas at the end of the project."  
- MME Student

Students want your constructive criticism.



- Encourage your student, but avoid empty responses that stall discussion or give the student no jumping off point.
- Ask specific, engaging questions about your student's progress.
- Don't just provide answers, challenge your student.



- What do you hope to get out of this study?
- Great job on your outline! How can we further clarify your thesis?
- I noticed you're having trouble defining your focus group. Who are we trying to target?



"I really enjoyed my experience with my mentor. He provided a lot of insight to my project and how to improve it. The suggestions he gave me were applicable and impacted my work in the best way. My mentor made sense of the source of errors and gave me a much better understanding of the faults within it while offering solutions to improve it next year."  
- MME Student

You have a team behind you! Contact ISTI with any questions:  
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