



Mentor UPDATE

Hello,

National Black History Month

Explore the many contributions of African-Americans with your mentee as we celebrate National Black History Month. This month, we look back at contributions black people have made throughout history and honor those who fought for equal rights or the abolition of slavery.

National Black History Month started in 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson proposed an observance to honor the accomplishments of black Americans. He called it Negro History Week, and it was called that right up to the 1970s, when it was renamed Black History Week. He chose the second week of February because it marks the birthday of renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14) and U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12), who abolished slavery. In 1976, it was changed to Black History Month in the U.S. Although Canadians marked the month, the House of Commons only officially recognized Black History Month in 1995 when Jean Augustine, the first black female MP, introduced the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Know How to Go - KH2GO

Help your Mentee Put Their Hands on Some Cash!
If your mentee believes college is not affordable, encourage him/her to think again as there are several types of aid available.

- *Who gets it?* Many more people than you might think. [Financial aid](#) is awarded based on need and merit - academic achievement, athletics and other talents. But students have to apply for aid to find out if you qualify.

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Mentors Needed

Have friends or colleagues who would make an amazing mentor? Send their information to [Julie Rocco](#) and she will contact them!

Reminders

Early Release Days for 2009-2010:

- February 3, 2010
- February 17, 2010
- March 31, 2010
- April 21, 2010
- May 5, 2010
- May 19, 2010
- June 10, 2010

Contacts

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 Programs Director

What kind of money? [Grants, scholarships, work-study, student loans](#) - there are a lot of different types of financial aid resources available. Students need to find out which kind or combination works best for their needs.

- *Where do you look?* Colleges expect students and parents to pay what they can, but schools, state and federal governments, and private businesses and organizations are also great sources for financial aid.
- *Is it free money?* Not likely - most financial aid packages are a mixture of grants that don't need to be paid back and loans that do, but not until after the student graduates from college or withdrawals.
- *How to apply.* School Guidance Counselors can help students learn how to file a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), which makes the student a candidate for all federal student aid. For help online, go to <http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org/>.

Do deadlines matter? Absolutely. College financial aid goes fast. The earlier a student can get in the [FAFSA](#) application and all of the other information that a college asks for, the sooner he/she will receive a financial aid package.

The Mentoring Lifecycle: It's The BEST!

Mentoring relationships have ups and downs and go through certain phases. Learning about these phases will help you feel more comfortable since you will know what to expect. You will also be more supportive of your mentee. This will help you understand each phase of the mentoring relationship.

In addition, you will find out what to do during each phase to make sure your relationship is great!

Most mentoring relationships go through four stages:

- [Birth](#)
- [Engage](#)
- [Sustain](#)
- [Transition](#)

You can easily remember this by remembering that mentoring relationships are the BEST! Remember that these stages are not clear-cut. They frequently overlap, and you may even find yourself returning to an earlier phase. This is all part of the normal development of the relationship.

The Following Suggestions May Help Students To Improve Their Performance On Tests:

- Get plenty of rest the night before the test.
- Be on time and prepared for the test.
- Scan over the entire test before starting. This gives you

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Whether you have been a mentor for many years, or just joined the program, we are excited to have you as part of our mentoring team.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please call or email us.



a general overview of the content and types of questions asked.

- Know how many points each question is worth.
- Read and follow the directions carefully. Notice key words in the directions (i.e., less, sometimes, best, all, every, most, seldom, rarely).
- Do the easier problems first. This builds confidence.
- Mark difficult questions and return to them at a later time.
- Never leave anything blank. Most teachers give partial credit.
- Look for clues in the test. Is a question referred to later on in the test? Sometimes questions act as prompts to cue an answer to a previous question.
- Review all questions and answers.
- Do not change an answer without a good reason. Trust your gut instinct.
- Save your returned tests as study tools for semester tests. Some of the same types of questions may appear on the final exam.

Important Dates

Students' Day at the Fair (West Hillsborough County)	February 5, 2010
Strawberry Festival (East Hillsborough County)	March 8, 2010
Spring Holiday/Non-Student Days	April 12-16, 2010
Students Return to School	April 19, 2010
Conference Day/Non-Student Day	April 30, 2010
Memorial Day/Non-Student Day	May 31, 2010
Last Day of School/End of Fourth Grading Period/2nd Semester . .	June 10, 2010
Teacher Post-Planning	June 11-14, 2010

Sincerely,
The Mentoring Support Team
Hillsborough Education Foundation