



BetterGrads Mentoring Program Curriculum

JUNIORS

1.) September (Junior): What is the BetterGrads Mentoring Program?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Launch the College Prep Club (CPC) to support the BG Mentoring Program	Submit the Mentee Agreement Form	Sign-up for PSAT	Organize a club social for prospective and new club members
Elect officers, pick mtg dates / times, submit club charter	Submit the Parent / Legal Guardian Agreement Form		Identify 3 amazing qualities about a fellow club member
	Review BetterGrads Program Brochure		Review and revise CPC curriculum

2.) October (Junior): What is the PSAT?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
The PSAT - why is it important? SAT prep, Nat'l Merit Scholars	Submit all Agreement Forms (if not already)	CPC take practice PSAT as group	Host workshop on the PSAT practice test

Alyssa: Other options besides college.

Kevin: May learn more about yourself by experiencing other things (traveling, talking to others, reading, **etc.**) than by going to college right after high school. More about finding who you are (can come in other ways besides just traveling). Lots of options!

Mr. Johnston: Study abroad programs offered at college; combine school life (attending school) and traveling/experiencing the world.

Michelle: No one set path; not every path is great for every person. Also, other options to travel after college as well. More about the mindset.

Kevin: Focus on why you're doing what you're doing. Think about your **goals**.

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Prep for the PSAT: ineedapencil.com	Get assigned a mentor	Identify areas to improve, practice	
Select Activities for the academic year	Discuss your PSAT study plan with mentor		

3.) November (Junior): How can we serve our community?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Discuss community service options	Discuss what mentors do/did to get involved in HS and college	Contact mentors and other alums to invite them back to campus	Decide on a program to promote a college-going culture
Discuss scholarships	Create a list of all activities, share	Start search for colleges and money	Showcase pennants of teachers in library
		- zinch.com, fastweb	College presentation to underclassmen

4.) December (Junior): Is college hard?

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Discuss study habits, learning styles, time management, tips	Ask mentors how they studied, learned in college; share tips	Create goals & timeline for junior and senior yr (SAT, apps, AP, etc)	Create a list of study habits and tips, share with club and campus
What subjects are you most confident in?	Discuss learning styles, time mgmt	Sign up for My College QuickStart (winter brk)	Share timeline with each other, campus
What subjects are you least confident in?	Do I need a 4.0 to go to college? How are college classes different than HS?	Time capsule: Write a letter to yourself on where you think your life will be in 5 years.	Mail letter to mentor, to be mailed back to you after graduation. Keep a copy, too. :-)

5.) January (Junior): How can I make the most of high school?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Review PSAT scores with club & mentors	Ask mentor to provide resume template and feedback on resume	Interviews mentors about their classes and activities in HS	Try two new things on-campus (clubs, sports, etc), share exp.
Discuss career plans, interests, and potential majors	Discuss types of jobs you think you might enjoy as a career	Start a mini-resume - list out activities, leadership, awards	
	Discuss subjects u like	Sign-up for SAT	

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6.) February (Junior): What makes me unique?

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Complete and discuss StrengthsFinder 2.0 & Myers-Briggs tests	Discuss your story & ideas for a personal statement w/ mentor	BetterGrads-Pedrozzi Scholarship (apply!)	Contact two alumni or local professionals, ask to do job shadow
		Pick classes 4 senior yr, review transcript	Learn networking basics (Linkedin, etc.)
		List likely majors	

7.) March (Junior): What is the SAT, ACT, and AP?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Create a study plan for the SAT/ACT	Ask about experiences with SAT/ACT	Create an SAT-prep study group, mentors can tutor on hard ?s	Offer a seminar on SAT dates, test tips
Determine test dates for the SAT/ACT	Ask about SAT subject tests	Register for AP tests	

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Discuss multiple attempts at SAT	Discuss importance of timed full test practice	SAT practice test: ineedapencil.com	
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8.) April (Junior): How do I choose the “right” post-graduation option for me?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Research and discuss potential personal statement topics	Public/private, big/small, UC/CSU, alumni network	Create a list of schools you are considering; share	Offer a presentation on different options for the campus
Discuss schools you are considering, types	Reach/fit/fallback schools; how many?	Create an application plan (majors, essays, deadlines); share	Field trip: schedule a tour for students / club to visit local college

9.) May (Junior): How do I pay for college?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Research and discuss potential scholarships, create a list	Discuss how to have a chat with parents re: money for college	Create a financial plan on how to pay for college education	Organize a workshop on campus to highlight how to pay for college

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Research and discuss what FAFSA is, tell your parents about it	Discuss all college costs (tests, tuition, apps, room/board, etc)	Use financial aid calculator: FinAid, CollegeData	
Research CSS Profile	How did mentor pay?		

10.) June (Junior): What should I do this summer to prepare for college?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Brainstorm questions to ask campus reps and on college tours	When did mentors start filling out their college applications?	Plan college visits over the summer	Contact local alumni & professionals to ask about internships/jobs
Sign-up for mailers	When should we get letters of reference?	Have a final call before school ends to discuss options, club	Create spreadsheet of all students at your school & their post-grad plans
Update/organize scholarship list (apps, deadlines, etc)	Discuss people who could potentially offer internships to students	Look at college apps when they open up	

SENIORS

1.) September (Senior): What is the BetterGrads Mentoring Program??

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Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Launch the College Prep Club (CPC) to support the BG Mentoring Program	Submit the Mentee Agreement Form and Parent/Guardian Form	Register to take the SAT/ACT again if necessary	Organize a club social for prospective and new club members
Elect officers, pick mtg dates / times, submit club charter	Review BetterGrads Program Brochure	Get organized about college: professional email addresses, dates	Identify 3 amazing qualities about a fellow club member
	Early admission and early decision chat	What materials will you need for apps?	Review and revise curriculum

2.) October (Senior): How do I start my college applications?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Discuss personal statement ideas, plans	Discuss how mentors did their college apps	Update your resume / activity sheet, share	College app workshop with counselors
Search for and review scholarship deadlines	Rough drafts of personal statements	Share your personal statement w/ the club	

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- many due Oct 31!	use zinch.com to look for money for college How many schools to apply to? app costs?	Request letters of rec.	
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3.) November (Senior): How do I finish my college applications?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Work with partners to swap personal statements, feedback	Ask mentor to review personal statement and application, feedback	Ask teacher to read personal statement	
Discuss upcoming college app deadlines	Send SAT scores and transcripts.	Ask counselor to review application	
Review deadlines for submitting private school & other apps			

4.) December (Senior): How do I apply for scholarships and grants?

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Write essays for your scholarships/grants; review with the group	Share apps for grants and scholarships with mentors for review	Apply for at least one scholarship or grant	Compile a big list of scholarships and grants for circulation
Complete and submit FAFSA; zinch.com scholarshipjunkies.com		Search for grants, loans, scholarships	Host a “college” party for all students who applied; invite mentors
Discuss options for scholarships/grants			

5.) January (Senior): How do I pay for college?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Begin FAFSA form, discuss materials needed for it	Discuss all college costs (tests, tuition, apps, room/board, etc)	Compile a list of how you will finance your education	Panels and assemblies for younger students about college finances
Discuss potential financial aid options	Ask your mentor how they paid for college.	Apply for Scholarship	Ask parents about scholarships @ work
Discuss Cal Grant	Submit FAFSA, GPA verification form		

6.) February (Senior): What is college *really* like?

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Brainstorm all the different opportunities in college, make a list	Discuss college myths and realities, what mentor did for fun	Contact a grad of the college you want to attend, ask about this	Share a list of stuff to do in college (clubs, internships) w/ others
Study for AP tests, discuss strategies	Discuss internships, study abroad, career clubs, research, sports	Select 2-3 activities that you want to join or start in college	
	Discuss campus life	Sign-up for AP tests	

7.) March (Senior): Do I need school to learn?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Brainstorm alternative non-college paths and how it can = vehicle	Explore issues that matter to you and your mentor; activities	Reflect on yourself; explore fun reading, interests, passion	Network w/ someone in your future career; do information interview
Give example of something learned away from school	Discuss alternatives (work, travel, military, write book, trades)	Find online classes	Invite guest speaker who did something “unusual” post-HS

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How to learn w/ tech (online classes)			- e.g., went to Africa, internships
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8.) April (Senior): How do I evaluate my post-graduation options?

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Discuss college options, pros and cons of each choice	Discuss your goals in life and how college = vehicle to get there	Evaluate post-grad options, decide on a college/career plan	Network w/ students or alumni of your accepted schools; info interview
Assess admit letters	Discuss factors to consider in choosing a college (size, alums...)	Complete intent to register for college, if necessary	

9.) May (Senior): How do I successfully transition to college?

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Discuss possible jobs and internships for summer	Ask mentor to help you identify a job or internship for summer	Compile a list of all the discoveries on how to transition well	Contact local alumni & professionals to ask about internships/jobs
Discuss what you are most excited about for post-grad plans	Discuss importance of time mgmt w/ school, social life, and health	Write a reflection of past two years, share	Create spreadsheet of all students at your school & their post-grad plans
Discuss what you are most nervous about for post-grad plans	Discuss transition info (cars, housing, what to bring, college parties, health/ wellness, food, homesickness, travel)	Commit to stay connected to the high school and clubs that you enjoy; serve as a mentor next year	

10.) June (Senior): Celebrate!

Mentee group items	Mentor-related items	Program activities	Community activities
Stay in touch	Stay in touch	Discuss themes of what you learned via program year, share reflection pieces	Support each other and pay it forward

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		Review curriculum, make changes to improve it next year	Have one final call with all the mentors, mentees, CPC family
		Finalize summer and post-HS plans	

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