

# BOOKER PROMISE

Bridging the Opportunity Gap

## Dos & Don'ts of Mentoring

### DO

- Do work for gradual progress, not “F” directly to “A”.
- Do take time to establish a rapport with your mentee.
- Do focus on one area, subject or problem at a time.
- Do be aware of limitations. You cannot change your mentee’s home situation.
- Do remember that everyone has strengths.
- Do be aware that your mentee’s value system may be different from yours.
- Do report any harmful behavior.
- Do be aware and understanding of cultural differences.
- Do remember that listening is the supreme act of caring.
- Do realize that you may not be able to affect change. Ultimately, the responsibility for change lies within your mentee.
- Do be a positive role model.
- Do help your mentee set goals and reinforce their successes.
- Do keep meetings confidential.
- Listen, be supportive and have patience.

### DON'T

- Don't be judgmental.
- Don't be another parent or teacher.
- Don't forget your own adolescence.
- Don't expect quick changes in attitudes or academics.
- Don't be discouraged if your mentee's progress does not meet your expectations.
- Don't be discouraged if things get worse before getting better – your mentee may be testing you.
- Don't feel awkward with silences. Use this time to think and make choices.
- Don't take ownership of the problem. The problem belongs to your mentee.
- Don't wait for your mentee to initiate conversation or suggest activities.
- Don't become overly involved. Beware of your boundaries.
- Don't feel like you have to know all the answers.