



Why Mentoring?

Women who have a mentor can advance more quickly, and to higher levels, than those who are not supported.³

Mentoring relationships can be formal or informal, and short or long term.

Formal relationships are often arranged by an organisation or workplace, have pre-articulated expectations, and often include launches, wrap-ups, and socials to normalize expectations. Formal mentorships create an environment where it is easy to get involved, but may cause concerns of time commitment and how “visible” the relationships are.

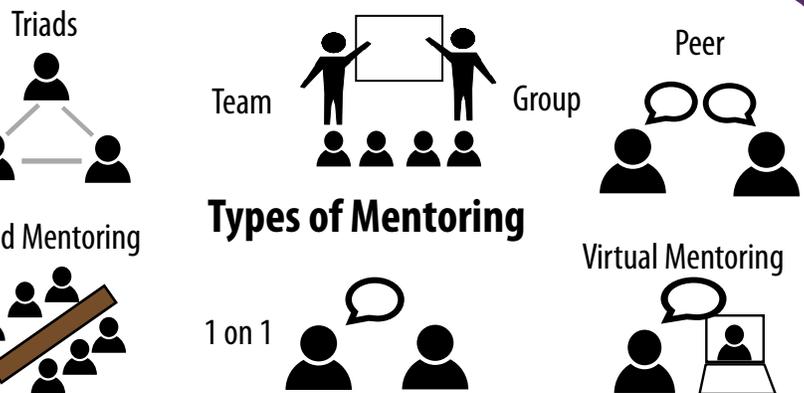
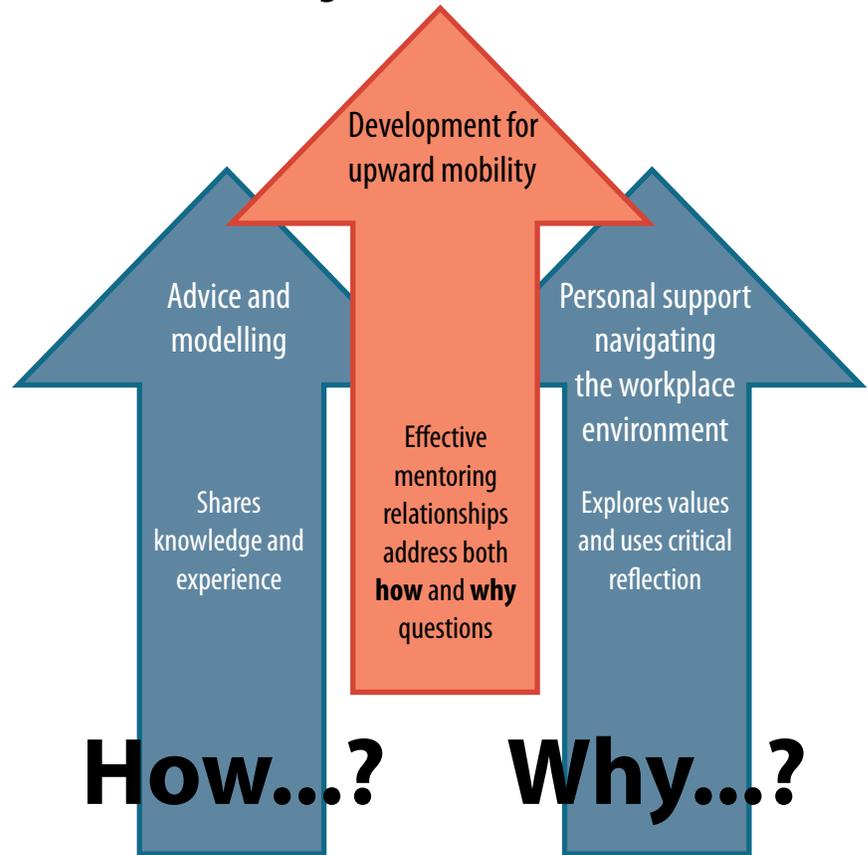
Informal mentoring is often arranged by individuals, so expectations are not always pre-determined and must be set by the mentor and mentee. They often focus on a specific need. Time commitments are more flexible, and informal mentorship is less “visible.” Difficulty establishing connections can make it challenging to become involved.

Short term mentoring formats include speed mentoring, project-specific mentors, shadowing, or transition mentors.

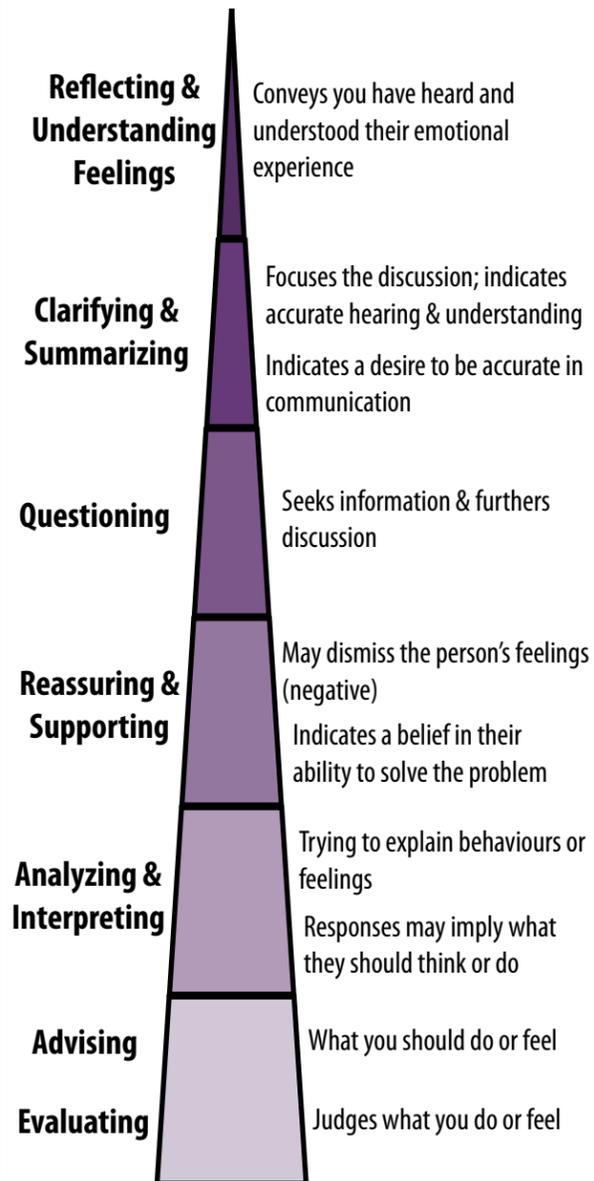
Long term mentoring may include regular or ad-hoc meetings, peer mentors, and most mentoring programs.

Online mentoring may use either format.

What is Mentoring?^{9,10}



Ranked Facilitative Responses²



In a mentoring relationship, **how you respond** affects how the other person responds. Choosing a response is context and relationship dependent.

Facilitative Conditions¹

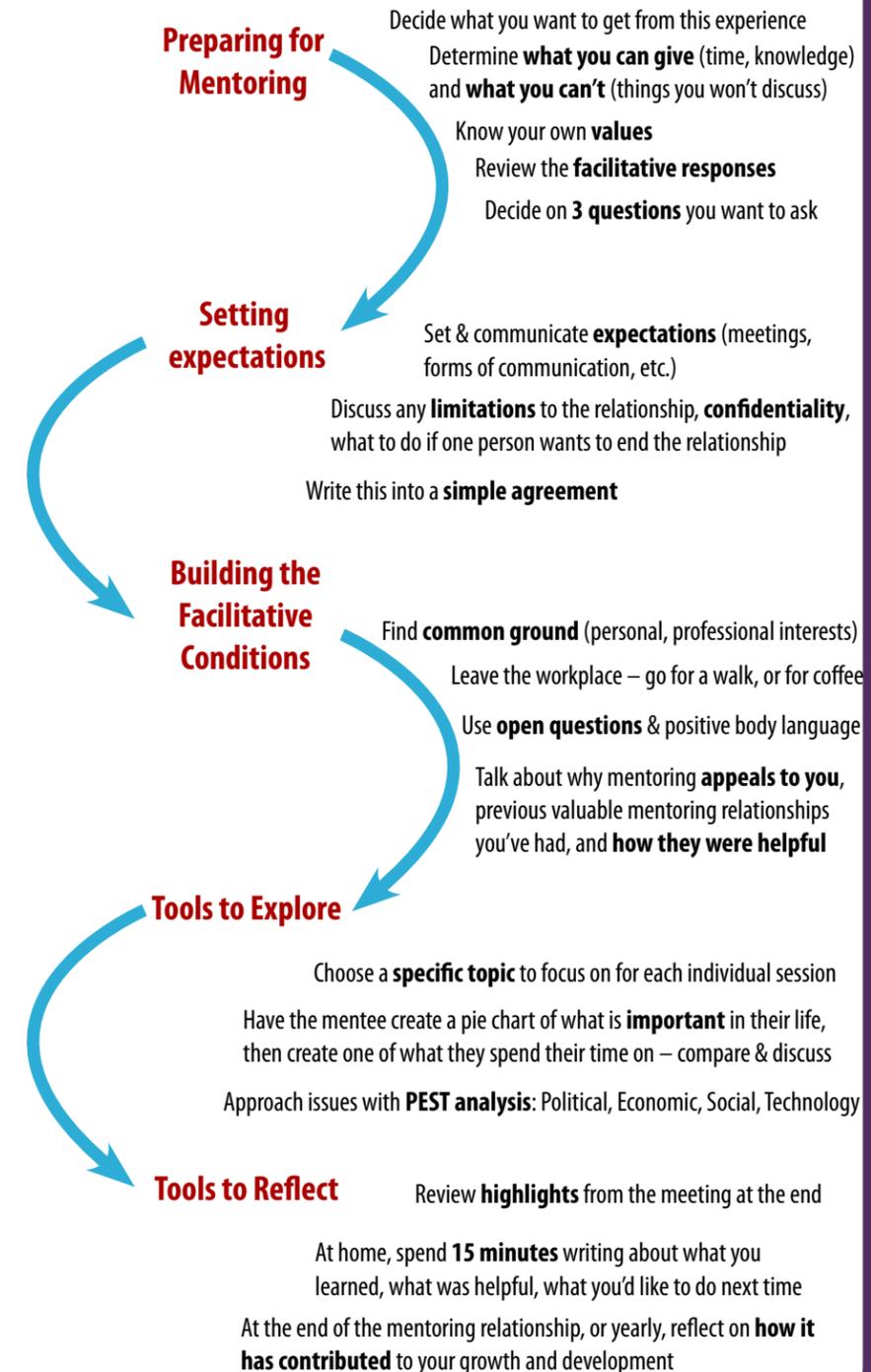
Friendliness	Sharing mutual interests	Genuine warmth	Genuine sense of comfort and support
Understanding	Empathy	Perceive and acknowledge their experiences	
Caring	Value them as a person	Personal commitment to the process	Personally care about their well-being
Respect	Right to express their own ideas and feelings		Right to shape their own lives
Trustworthiness	Confidentiality and security in relationship		Honesty
Acceptance	Accept who they are	Respect the personal worth and dignity of a person	

6 conditions must be met to create a relationship in which a person feels **comfortable to self-disclose**.¹
In a mentorship, this relationship is **reciprocal**.

Types of Questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| Effective: | Ineffective: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are person-centred • Are open • Ask "why" (without being intimidating) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely change the focus • Are binding • Solicit agreement • Force choices • Have "no good answer" • Are yes/no |

Tools for Mentoring^{4,5}



Mentoring at Work

Increasing workplace diversity, especially at the mid- and upper levels, can be supported through diversity mentoring programs.⁸ Organisations should also consider how to promote and support a variety of forms of mentoring, and reduce barriers to employees' participation.

Often, individuals who need mentoring the most are unable to find mentors because they are afraid to ask, or are searching for the "perfect fit" mentor.⁷ Informal mentoring can help resolve this. Peer mentoring is also beneficial; individuals with similar levels of experience act as both mentees and mentors to each other,⁷ offering advice and support in navigating the workplace and decision-making.⁶ There is value for employees at all levels, including executives.⁵

Finding mentors outside of the workplace can address individuals' life satisfaction levels, and provide outsider perspectives on work-related issues.⁵ Participating in multiple types of mentorship (peer, seniority-based, non-work, etc.) provides more opportunities for an individual's holistic personal development.⁵

Facilitative responses should be used as tools for strengthening relationships, and ensuring individuals feel comfortable self-disclosing. Setting expectations is key in ensuring a successful mentoring relationship.



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2. Wittmer, J. & Myrick, R. D. (1980). *Facilitative Teaching: Theory and Practice*. (2nd ed.). Minneapolis, MN: Educational Media Corp.
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4. Zachary, L. (2009). Make Mentoring Work for You: Ten Strategies for Success. *T + D*. 63(12): 76-77.
5. Zachary, L. & Fischler, L. (2009). Help on the Way: Senior Leaders can Benefit from Working with a Mentor. *Leadership in Action*. 29(2): 7-11.
6. Murphy, W. M. & Kram, K. (2010) Understanding non-work relationships in developmental networks. *Career Development International*. 15(7): 637-663.
7. Zachary, L. (2010). Informal Mentoring. *Leadership Excellence*. 27(2): 16.
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9. Kram, K. E. (1985). Mentoring at work: Developmental relationships in organizational life. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman.
10. Bozeman, B. & Feeney, M. K. (2007). Toward a useful theory of mentoring: A conceptual analysis and critique. *Administration & Society*. 39 (6): 719-739.

Recommended Readings

1. Bachkirova, T., Jackson, P., & Clutterback, D. (Eds.). (2011). *Coaching and Mentoring Supervision: Theory and Practice*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education.
2. Clutterback, D., Poulsen, K. M., & Kochan, F. (Eds.). (2012). *Developing Successful Diversity Mentoring Programmes: An International Casebook*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education.
3. Clutterback, D. (2012). Coaching and Mentoring in Support of Management Development 1. In Armstrong, S., & Fukami, C. (Eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Management Learning, Education and Development* (p.477-497). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

About SCWIST

SCWIST is a non-profit association that promotes, encourages and empowers women and girls in science, engineering and technology. The MS Infinity Program introduces girls to exciting career options and positive female role models in science and technology. The IWIS (Immigrating Women in Science and Technology) Program provides support to immigrating professional women including resources, skill development workshops and networking opportunities. Program details at www.scwist.ca/

About Make Possible

The Make Possible Mentoring Network is part of the Government of Canada's Status of Women Initiative to help attract and retain women in technology and advance the digital economy. Make Possible provides mentoring support, networking connections, professional development and leadership opportunities to help women reach their full potential in the technology sector and all STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. The Make Possible vision is a world where aspiration, opportunity and diversity intersect. The Make Possible mission is to help women connect, collaborate and lead through a dedicated mentoring network in STEM. For more information: contact@makepossible.ca or visit <http://www.makepossible.ca/>