

# CLC 12 – Mentorship

## The Important Role of Mentors

Having a mentor is not only important, but it can be a powerful and rewarding experience. As part of your CLC Graduation Project, you will be asked to find a mentor(s) to support and guide you through completion of your project.

**Mentorship** is a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. It is a learning and development partnership between someone with vast experience and someone who wants to learn. Mentors play a key role in helping you with career-life development, including planning, decision making, providing exposure to possibilities, and finding emerging opportunities.



## Choosing a Mentor

Choosing a mentor isn't necessarily a difficult task, but it should be something you put some thought into.

A peer is someone who is about your age: a classmate, friend or buddy; however, a mentor is NOT the same thing as a peer. Your mentor should be an adult that you trust, *e.g. teacher, family member, community member*; they must have some expertise or knowledge in the area you are exploring for your CLC Graduation Project; and they should be able to give you feedback and suggestions (in-person or via telephone, email, skype, etc).

When choosing a mentor here are some things to consider:

1. **Values:** It is important to make sure your values align with the person you are considering as a potential mentor. This will help build a better relationship.
2. **Communication:** You want to make sure the person you have in mind can communicate with you in a way that is easy for you to understand.
3. **Willingness:** This person must be willing to help and feel comfortable to readily share with you.
4. **Expectations:** Ensure you define what you are looking for in the mentorship so that you and your potential mentor are on the same page, *e.g. how much time you would like to meet with your mentor and how they can help you.*
5. **Personality:** Finding someone with a complementary personality to yours can help better develop your mentorship.

## Next Steps

Once you have a mentor:

1. You need to discuss what an ideal mentorship will be with your mentor. Will it be informal? How will you communicate with each other? **You need to define the expectations of your mentorship with your mentor from the beginning.**
2. Discuss about the duration of your mentorship: will it be one time, occasional or long term – this will depend on the support you need for your project and what works best between you and your mentor for time commitment.