

# Attendance and Achievement-High School

**Lesson Title:** *Mentor Wanted*

**Grade Level:** High School

**Main Character:** Dwayne

**SEL Competencies:** Responsible Decision Making, Self-management

## Introduction

Dwayne was disconnected from both school and his parents. He remembers how many times he was suspended from school and for how long. Also, a gang was attempting to recruit Dwayne. It was through the relationships of several mentors, most notably his English teacher and an uncle that Dwayne was able to turn things around and make positive, prosocial decisions.

## Activity 1

Watch the video: *Mentor Wanted* featuring Dwayne

Watch additional support video featuring Everett Hamilton

Watch additional support video featuring KaMyka Glenn

## Activity 2

Reflect on the role of mentorship in the community. If you are working with a team each person should take time to reflect individually before discussing with a partner or the group.

Dwayne mentions the types of people he was hanging around with and the things they were doing when they were not in school. Using your experience, in a few sentences describe a student you know who is like one the teens Dwayne was hanging around with.

Why do you think the student you described is motivated to make the choices he or she makes?

Watch the video of Everett Hamilton again.

Why do you think Everett was able to reach Dwayne? What are the characteristics of a mentor who would be able to reach the student you described?

## Activity 3

Watch the video of KaMyka Glenn again.

She doesn't say what she did that got Dwayne's attention. What are some strategies that you believe she used to reach Dwayne? Why do you believe that what she did worked?

Think about a student that you know who is having difficulty and is potentially at-risk of dropping out of school. Brainstorm some ideas you believe are the root causes of this student being at-risk of dropping out. Which ones are the most concerning?

What are the skills you possess that help you be a mentor to your most difficult students? What are some skills that you need to develop?

Develop an action plan for improving your professional practice to mentor the student or students that you have identified as needing that additional support to stay in school.

#### **Activity 4**

Consider your school context.

Dwayne talks about the relationship he had with one of his English teachers. Do you think every student at your school could speak similarly about at least one teacher in your school? Why or why not? Would you like to see changes at your school to improve student/teacher relationships? If so, what are your action steps?

We see Dwayne at school working on music production, what opportunities are there for students to express themselves in positive ways at your school? Are there additional needs to address? What ideas would you like implement?

#### **Additional Resources for Growth**

National Dropout Prevention Center

<https://dropoutprevention.org/>

National Alternative Education Association

<http://the-naea.org/>