

SEL Spotlight-High School

Lesson Title: *Finding a Mentor*

Grade Level: High School

Main Character: George K.

SEL Competencies: Responsible Decision Making, Social Awareness

Introduction

George was involved in gangs and illegal activities throughout much of his adolescence. He eventually was arrested and potentially could have spent many years in jail. But he was fortunate to receive a second chance. With the help of mentors and positive friends he is working and attending a post-secondary vocational program.

Activity 1

Watch the video: *Finding a Mentor*

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.

George gives a brief tour of the neighborhood where he grew up. Use your imagination to make a list of positive influences and a list of negative influences on George. Based on your lists, what kind of student would you have expected George to be? What are the things you think a teacher would have to do to reach a student like George?

Think about a student you have had who reminds you of George. What are some things you did well in working with this student? What about some areas for improvement? Write a statement to help you remember how to approach a student like this in the future.

Activity 3

Watch the video again. Consider carefully the comments made by one the mentors interviewed in the video.

List all the things that the mentor in the video says and does about being a positive mentor. Why do you think the mentors are effective? What other parts of the program works for George?

Describe how and why a positive mentoring relationship motivates students. How well do you rate yourself at developing mentoring relationships with your students?

Think about the relationship between you a student you feel like you have connected well with. Why did this happen? What actions have you taken that have been effective in developing this relationship? How can these actions help you develop positive relationships with other students?

Activity 4

Consider your school context.

Do you believe there are students who feel disconnected from your school or school context? If so, why do you think so? If not, what are the effective interventions that your school personnel use to keep students engaged with the school community?

If you believe that students feel disconnected from your school, what do they need? What actions can you take to improve this concern? What resources are available?

If your school keeps students connected, how can you share your success with others?

Additional Resources for Growth

National Dropout Prevention Center

<https://dropoutprevention.org/>

National Alternative Education Association

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