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MAKE SPARKS FLY

Connect with Multiple Generations

Seek out a mentor from another generation:

According to a study completed by Search Institute, most teens have deep talents, interests and passions and want to use these “sparks” to make a difference in their communities and world. Unfortunately, many teens feel they lack the relationships and opportunities they need to help them develop their sparks.¹ The truth is there are adults in your life who want to connect with you and help you tap into your spark, but they may believe the stereotype that “teens don’t want anything to do with adults.” Reach out to adults in your life who are eager to help you develop your spark!

Take a few moments to consider what you would want most in a mentor. In the space below, write the mentor characteristics that are most important to you.

The most successful teens are those who have mentors and who mentor others. Not only can we learn from a mentor, we can learn from being a mentor to others. In the space below, brainstorm several ideas about how you could be a mentor to someone younger than yourself.

Share your responses with a partner or a small group. Be sure to listen to the ideas of others!

Find inspiration from another generation:

People of all ages have sparks and want to make a difference in our community and world. Explore USA TODAY to find an inspirational story about someone from a generation other than your own who has made a positive contribution to the world. Once you have read the article, respond to the following questions:

1. *What did you learn from the person in this story? What life lesson can you take away from the article?*
2. *Why is it important for you to connect with people from other generations? How can you benefit and how can they benefit from this connection?*

Learn from generational leaders: Search for some “spark lessons” from U.S. Senators who have created TSA (Teen Service Announcement) videos for you on at15.com. Once you sign up as a member, go to the home page and click on “More Videos.” View at least five of the U.S. Senator TSAs and write one “spark lesson” you learn from each U.S. Senator.

TSA 1: _____

TSA 2: _____

TSA 3: _____

TSA 4: _____

TSA 5: _____

¹ “Teen Voice 2009: The Untapped Strengths of 15-Year-Olds. The Search Institute, Minneapolis: 2009.

