


ACTIVITY 15

How Can I Support You?

Purpose: Foster advisee-advisor relationships and a sense of community within the group. Encourage self-advocacy by inviting advisees to articulate the ways in which the advisor can support them.

APPROXIMATE TIME:
30 minutes

MATERIALS:
 **HANDOUT**
How Can I Support You?

ADVISOR NOTES:

The Importance of Closing Routines

The final discussion introduces a routine that you can use to close future advisory meetings that have required groups to collaborate. Use this routine with the questions as written or develop your own set of reflection questions with your advisees that they revisit after group work activities over the course of the year.

PROCEDURE:

1. Reflect on How the Advisor Can Support Advisees

- Arrange the group in a circle and explain that you would like to know how you can best support them as their advisor this year.
- Then pass out the handout **How Can I Support You?**
- Next, have advisees work individually to respond to the three questions on the handout. Before they start writing, let them know that they will be sharing their ideas in small groups and that you will be collecting the handouts at the end of the meeting.

2. Collaborate to Create a Group List

- Divide advisees into small groups, perhaps counting off to mix up the group. Instruct them to share what they wrote on their handouts.
- Next, pass out one blank copy of the handout **How Can I Support You?** to each group and have them discuss and then record three ideas in each box that they can all agree on.
- To debrief, ask for each group to share one idea at a time, round-robin style, while you listen, jot notes, and ask clarifying questions. Offer a summarizing description, such as, "It sounds like you want me to be a good listener, help you problem-solve, and occasionally it's okay for me to nag. Is that a fair summary? That's for each of you as individuals. I also plan to help us function well as a group."

3. Reflect on the Group Process

- Return to a circle for a closing discussion about the activity and how well the groups felt they worked together to create their shared lists. You might draw from the following questions:
 - What process did your group use to share what you wrote on your handouts?
 - How did your group choose which ideas to include on the group handout and which ideas not to include?
 - What do you think worked well in your group?
 - How do you think you could do better the next time you work in a group?
- Collect the individual handouts so you have a snapshot of what each advisee values and needs in an advisor this year.



How Can I Support You?

Directions: Think of someone who is (or was) a good advisor to you in your life. It could be a friend, a relative, someone at school, someone from your religious institution or your job, anybody. Then respond to the questions in the space provided on the chart. You will be sharing your responses in small groups.

Questions	My Ideas
In what ways do/did they support you that have led you to think of them as a good advisor?	
What are/were some their qualities that have made them a good advisor to you?	
What would make me (your current advisor) an effective advisor to you this year?	