

## Global X: Discussion Topics

When you are getting to know a new person, it can be difficult to know what to talk about or where to start. Here are some strategies for communicating that may make this a bit easier for you:

- **Be curious!** Ask your mentee about themselves:
  - Where did you grow up? What is your hometown like?
  - Where did you go to school? Did you study anything interesting?
  - What is your family like? Do you have any siblings? Any pets?
  - What do you like to do in your free time?
  - Do you play any sports? Do you play any instruments or sing? Hobbies?
  - What is your favorite food from home? What is it like?
- Ask your mentee to list some **personal and academic goals** for the semester:
  - Are you interested in joining a student organization? (You can offer to go with them to Student Org night, as that can be an overwhelming experience.)
  - What classes are you taking? (You can also be thinking about any campus resources they could use to help them do well this semester.)
- **Share stories about your first year at JMU** - funny, cautionary tales, anything! It may be easier for them to talk and share after you have opened up first.
- **Talk about the weather.** Just kidding - but not really. You can explain to them that this is a common and “safe” topic of conversation to have with Americans, especially if they need to make “small talk.” (Oh yea, you might have to explain that one too.)
- **Ask for their opinion.** “I can’t decide if I should go to the football game on Saturday or go see a movie - what do you think?” for example. They may not have the advice you are looking for, but they are likely to appreciate being asked.
- Make note of things they say that you may **have in common** with them, then follow-up with a suggestion to go do that activity, eat that type of food, etc.
- **Do a weekly recap.** What was the most interesting thing that happened in the past week? What was the worst thing that happened in the past week? What is one thing you learned in the past week?