Alumni Mentor Program: Discussion Topics

Weekly Overview:

Week 1:	Begins Monday 10/19	Introductions – Meet & Greet
Week 2:	Begins Monday 10/26	How I Handle the Constantly Changing Field of WRTC (mentors)
Week 3:	Begins Monday 11/2	5 Things I'd Like to Know About Life After Graduation (mentees)
Week 4:	Begins Monday 11/9	5 Things I Wish I'd Done Before Graduation (mentors)
Week 5:	Begins Monday 11/16	Question & Answer (mentees)
Week 6:	Begins Monday 11/23	Preparing for the Job Market (mentors)

Weekly Topics – Details and Suggestions

During the six-week program, we will provide you with topics and questions each week to help both the mentors and mentees facilitate a productive discussion. These ***suggested topics*** are meant to help you get started with your correspondence, but please do not feel like you are limited to these discussion points.

Week 1: Introductions – Meet & Greet (Mentees must initiate contact)

- ***Mentees:*** Share a little about where you are in the WRTC program. What is your major, minor, concentration, year of study? Do you know what area or job you would like to aim for after graduation? What are some of your favorite classes/subjects in WRTC? Why did you join the Alumni Mentor Program? What are your expectations?
- ***Mentors:*** Share a little about yourself. Where do you work? What kind of duties does your job entail? What are some areas of writing, rhetoric, or technical communication that you enjoy researching and keeping current in? Why did you join the Alumni Mentor Program?

Week 2: How I handle the constantly changing field of writing, rhetoric, and technical communication (Mentors begin this discussion)

- What skills do you find indispensable?
- What skills learned in TSC/WRTC did you apply to your career?
- What types of courses/topics should students learn while in school?
- How do you keep up with the ever-changing field, software, and technology?

Week 3: 5 Things I want to know about life after graduation (Mentees begin this discussion)

Week 4: 5 Things I wish I had done before graduation (Mentors begin this discussion)

Week 5: Question and Answer (Mentees begin this discussion)

- As Mentees, you signed up for the Alumni Mentor Program because you wanted advice, guidance, and answers to your questions … here is your chance. Think of 5 questions (not touched upon in other weeks) that you would like to discuss with your mentor. For example:
  - How and where do you find inspiration?
  - What would you do differently if given the chance?
  - How do you approach new/unknown information?
  - What is the best way to keep your eye on the future?
  - What are 5 key books you feel I should read, and why?
  - If money were no object, what would your dream job be, and why?

Week 6: Preparing for the Job Market (Mentors begin this discussion)

- What should students have before applying for jobs (resume, portfolio, etc.)?
- How did you go about searching for jobs?
- What do you look for in potential new hires?
- What were some professional challenges you faced (transitioning from school to work)?
- What do you do to maintain professional development?
- What is workplace culture? How can you adjust to workplace cultures?
- What advice do you have for your mentee's job search?