

ScholarMatch



Actions to Avoid

In working with a student, you may feel confident in your approach, or perhaps you're concerned about saying the wrong thing. It's natural to want the best for the students you work with. Utilizing this resource can help your conversations go smoothly so you can provide the best guidance possible.

Here is a list of things you'll want to avoid when working with your scholar:

- Don't underestimate them!
 - Feel confident in judging your student's boundaries. Gently nudge them to push beyond their comfort zone and challenge themselves.
- Don't feel like you have to always give them the "right" answer.
 - When working with students, it's easy to want to give them the "answer" or lead them to a conclusion.
 - Instead of being an answer factory, help the student think critically.
 - Allow them to think about what will work for them or what they're comfortable with
- Don't dismiss their feelings.
 - A student may be mistaken about a situation, but that doesn't make their feelings any less valid or real to them.
 - Coaching a student to work through their feelings while simultaneously pushing them to move forward is essential for their growth.
- Don't presume that their lived experiences are similar to yours.
 - Not all students have the same "start line."
 - Instead of saying phrases like "This might be review to you," say something like "This might be the first time you've seen this..."
 - This will help affirm their experiences rather than presuming what they do or don't know.
- Don't forget that you are not alone in working with a student!
 - If you encounter a problem that is out of your wheelhouse, reach out for help!
 - Do what you can to stabilize the situation and then ask for help:
 - Reach out to ScholarMatch staff: careers@scholarmatch.org
 - Offer support to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (800-273-8255) or 1-888-628-9454 (Spanish) to reach a trained counselor. Students can text "**Home**" to **741-741** (24/7 Crisis Text Line). For more on how to handle sensitive or concerning situations, see the How to Handle Student Crises and Emergencies training sheet.