## Ten tips for talking to Adults

**Advisory Goal:** Students will increase awareness of ethical and moral behavior and explore ways to incorporate those behaviors in their lives.

**Purpose:** Students will read about and discuss among themselves the causes of success and failure.

**Time:** One advisory period

**Materials:** Make copies of this activity for each of the students. Paper, pencils/pens.

**Activity:** Have students to read and discuss ”Ten tips for talking to teachers”.

* Have the students come up with a list of three things each of them can do to help them achieve success this year.

**Reflection:** Ask the students:

* Did you have enough to do with this activity?
* Would you like to see more activities such as this one?

**Reflection:** Ask the teacher: (use the questions listed or put others)

* Was the time appropriate for the activity?
* Did you have all the materials you needed, should others be listed?
* Did the students take part?

Ten Tips for Talking To Teachers/Adults

Are you having a problem with a class or an assignment? Can you see room for improvement in how a subject is being taught? Do you have a better idea for a special project or term paper? Don't just tell your friends. Talk to the teacher!

The following suggestions are meant to make it easier for students to do this.

1. Make an appointment to meet and talk. This shows that you're serious and that you understand his or her busy schedule. Be flexible and don't be late!
2. Look the person in the eye, enunciate, shake hands. Etc….. If you want to be viewed as an adult, you need to behave as an adult.
3. Think through what you want to say BEFORE you go into your meeting. Write down your questions or concerns. Make a list of the items you want to discuss. You may want to copy your list so both of you can look at it.
4. Choose your words carefully. Put a positive spin on words. For example, instead of saying, "I hate doing reports; they are a waste of time, " try, "Is there some other way I can satisfy this requirement? May I do a video instead?" Strike the word "boring" “hate” from your vocabulary.
5. Don't expect the teacher to do all of the work or come up with all of the answers. Be prepared to make suggestions, offer solutions and recommend resources. The teacher will appreciate that you took the initiative.
6. Be diplomatic, tactful and respectful. Teachers/Adults have feelings, too. They're more likely to be responsive if you remember that the purpose of your meeting is conversation, not confrontation. Be aware of how you speak as not to be offensive.
7. Focus on what you need, not on what you think the teacher is doing wrong. The more the teacher learns about you, the more he or she will be able to help. The more defensive the teacher feels, the less he or she will want to help.
8. Don't forget to listen. This may seem obvious, but many students need practice in this important skill. The purpose of your meeting is not to hear yourself talk.
9. Bring your sense of humor, not necessarily the “joke telling” sense of humor; but the one that lets you laugh at yourself and your own misunderstandings and mistakes.
10. Finally, if your meeting isn't the success you hoped it would be, get help from another adult. This could be your advisor, a counselor, staff member, or another teacher you know and trust and who is likely to support you and be an advocate. Then try again.