

## Link INTO CSU Mentor Curriculum Week Four: Relationships

Time Frame:  
60 minutes

Checking in  
10 minutes / 50 minutes remaining

Vocabulary Box:

*Peer*  
*Talking down (idiom)*  
*Demanding*  
*Recommendation letter*  
*Inappropriate*  
*Unprofessional*

Mentor begins by...

- Check in to see how everyone is doing with their classes, getting adjusted to life in Ft. Collins, housing, etc.

Weekly Challenge Update  
10 minutes / 40 minutes remaining

Have a discussion with your mentees about the differences they found between their home country and U.S. classrooms. (If you have new students or a student who did not complete the challenge, have the old students explain the activity to the new students to practice English speaking).

Relationships  
20 minutes / 20 minutes remaining

Mentor explains...

- We will be talking about 3 different types of relationships.
  - Student-teacher
  - Male-female
  - Student-student (peer)

1. Student-teacher

- What relationship do teachers and students have in your home country? Is it different from here?
  - Example: In university classes, you do not call the professor by their first name unless they say you can.
  - Discussions are encouraged between teachers and students both inside and outside the classroom.
  - It is not allowed for teachers and students to date each other.
  - It is important to go to teacher's office hours in order to get more help, and for them to get to know you so that they can see that you are committed to the class and your studies. This is also beneficial because in the future they could become a great recommendation.
- Mentor gives an example of a teacher-student relationship (i.e. when you went to an office hour and it was very helpful, etc...)

Mentor continues...

- Asking for help vs. demanding

- If you demand help from someone, it is likely that they will not help you, but instead become frustrated.
- Respecting others' time
  - In American culture it is important to realize the importance of time. When you enter a business you must keep in mind that everyone has multiple jobs and tasks. They will want to help you, but you must realize that your situation is not the only one they are dealing with.

## 2. Male-female

- Different cultures and different people have ideas about how men and women should interact. What are some of the differences you have seen between men and women interacting in your country and in the U.S.?
  - Married couples?
  - Boyfriend/girlfriend?
  - Friends?

## 3. Student-student

- Not everyone has the same culture and or background that you do and this means that you will act differently in situations. These are situations that you can learn from and differences can help you grow as a person.

### Examples:

1. Your roommate wants to pray before they eat, but your religious beliefs are different, how do you respect them without sacrificing your own? Does this make you feel uncomfortable?
  2. What are some other situations you have run into dealing with peer-peer relationships?
- Mentor asks for an example of when a student had a difficult relationship with a peer

Remember: Respect what you don't understand, ask questions and never make judgments about things you don't know.

### Q&A and Conversation

20 minutes / 0 minutes remaining

Mentor explains that there is a lot to learn and adapt to when we travel to new countries and experience new cultures. Ask the group to go around and share:

1. One thing they like about being in the U.S.
2. One thing they do not like about being in the U.S.

### Mentor reminds...

At the end of every meeting there will be time to ask questions or share a situation you may be wondering about and get feedback. Is this U.S. culture? What is happening? Are other INTO students experiencing the same thing?

Open the floor up for questions and concerns. Facilitate a conversation about what comes up. Consider asking some of the questions below:

- Has anyone else experienced something like this?
- What do you think is happening in the situation?
- Has anyone already discovered the answer to this question?