



Mentor Me, Mentor You

A DIY Toolkit For Writers

What a Mentor Is... and Isn't

A mentor is...

An industry professional who offers careers or craft advice.

A mentor isn't...

Your agent - they can't get you jobs.

Your therapist - they're not there to fix your emotional life.

Your script editor - it's not their job to read everything you write.

Who Needs a Mentor?

Mentorship is not just for beginners: It could be right for you if...

- You're moving from one type of role (or genre) to another.
- You want to branch out into other mediums - from tv to games etc
- You're taking on a leadership role for the first time.

How Do You Find a Mentor?

- **WATCH** shows in your favourite genres / medium / audiences and note the writer/head writer credits.
- **SCOUR** IMDB.com for their other credits.
- **RESEARCH** conference delegates.
- **READ** the trades, follow names.

How Do You Connect?

- **FOLLOW / CONNECT** on socials.
- **IRL** - Talk to them when you see them at conferences and industry events.
- **EMAIL** via their websites.

There's no one-size fits all for mentors. Different mentors can help you with different issues at different stages of your career.

Top Tips for Mentees

1. **Be specific about what** you need and find out what your mentor can offer. Do you want industry advice or craft advice? Are they doing the things you aspire to do?
2. Do the **homework** – if they suggest you read a book, watch a show, write a script - put in the work.
3. **Don't** expect the mentor to hire you on their next show or read every draft of every script you ever write.
4. **Respect** your mentor's experience. Know their CV, read their scripts.
5. Respect the **confidentiality** of the relationship. Ask permission before you share stuff they shared with you.
6. Be **professional** and be on time.
7. **Listen** more than you talk. Never diss a show.
8. Accept **feedback** graciously. Don't be defensive. Use feedback as learning opportunities.
9. **Stay** in touch. Share your successes with your mentor.
10. **Say** Thank you.

Top Tips for Mentors

1. Be kind.
2. Set boundaries.
3. Don't spoon-feed your mentee. Expect them to do the work.
4. Don't overpromise.
5. Let them know when they can expect your response.
6. Mentor the person, not the project.
7. Encourage your mentee to fly the nest.

Pay it Forward

- As you climb that ladder, pull up someone else.
- Offer advice to someone starting out.
- Share and swap skills with others. You can be a mentor too!

Check Out Mentoring schemes & opportunities at



If you email a potential mentor as a result of this session at CMC2022, don't forget to put our secret codeword in the subject line.