



Tips

TO IDENTIFY YOUR MENTOR

1. Find a Person

WHOSE WORK IMPRESSES YOU

This is an absolute must. For a person to be your mentor, their work should portray a level of expertise and authority that you appreciate and can learn from.

This way, your mentor can provide you with more than business tips and life lessons. Those things are important, of course, but the tangible tools and skills needed for you to grow your career are golden—and much harder to learn on your own.

Consider the skills you believe would help your career flourish and whether your potential mentor can assist you in developing these areas. For example, will your mentor be able to help you hone your leadership skills or teach you how to develop stronger interpersonal relationships with your colleagues?

Keeping that in mind, **try to identify a person who can assist you with *any* task- or craft-based questions you may have.**

2. Find a Person

WHOSE WORK ETHIC YOU ADMIRE

Even though we just finished telling you about the importance of a mentor who can teach you the tangible skills needed to improve your craft, work ethic and style should also play a large role in your selecting someone as a potential mentor.

In simpler terms, you need a person whose approach to work inspires you and can push you forward as a professional. This could be someone whose style is similar to yours but perhaps more developed, or it could be someone whose style differs greatly and can help push you outside of your comfort zone.

For instance, maybe you're someone who tends to be more reserved in meetings but would like to become more proactive in communicating your ideas. Finding a mentor who demonstrates an open, transparent communication style in the workplace could be a great way to learn how to refine your skills in this area.

Once you've identified someone whose work impresses you and whose style inspires you, **there's only one remaining factor for you to consider.**

3. Find a Person

WHO'S FOUND SUCCESS

Professional success can be measured in many different ways. It doesn't always mean the person who is in charge or who has the deepest pockets.

When choosing a mentor, remember that you are the one who gets to define success and determine the aspect of success you find most aspirational. It could be the person who motivates the team most effectively, the person always willing to help others out or the person who never misses a deadline.

No matter who it is, it's important to find someone who is successful by your standards and to identify what makes them successful, so you can set up ways for you to learn from them.

After all, if you don't consider someone to be successful, why would you try to follow in their footsteps?

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