



## Cloud Coach | Gateway Prompts Support

Cloud Coach is designed to provide a mentor to all ninth graders in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public School Districts. This means that a mentor may support a student who is excelling at school, a student who is producing grade-level work, or a student who may not graduate due to barriers they are facing inside and outside of the classroom. While we do not know why a particular student does not write, we do know that students may struggle with homelessness or may be unsure of where their next meal is coming from. They may be working a part time job to support their family and have little time for schoolwork. They may be new to the country and have a limited English vocabulary. They may also be experiencing mental health challenges or are uneasy about talking to someone they don't know. We hear from teachers that students read your messages whether or not they are responding. With this in mind, it is important to show up for your student each week to provide support and model dependability. This resource is meant to provide support to mentors who are having a one-sided conversation due to their student not responding. Thank you for continuing to write to your student each week!

**Note:** *If you have not heard from your student after two weeks, we suggest using the resources below when writing to your student each week.*

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Week 3 – Exploring Strengths
<b>Objective</b>
<b>Help your student identify their strengths.</b>
<b>Week 3 Main Question</b>
<i>I'm interested in learning what things you are really good at. What do you think is your greatest strength?</i>
<b>Week 3 Talking Points &amp; Tips</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your message on the shorter side.</li><li>• Ask open ended questions.</li><li>• Maintain an interest in getting to know your student.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Warm Welcome</u>: Thank your student for reading your message, ask them how their weekend was, or wish them the best.</li><li>○ <u>Share Your Story</u>: Share your greatest strength with your student. How did you realize this was your greatest strength?</li><li>○ <u>Ask a Question</u>: What are you really good at? What is your greatest strength?</li><li>○ <u>Expect Engagement</u>: Let your student know you are looking forward to hearing from them!</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Week 3 Example Message</b>
<p>Good morning, Leng!</p> <p>I hope you are having a good week so far! What did you do this weekend? This week I'm looking forward to learning about what you are really good at.</p> <p>When I was in high school, I played a lot of video games and I still do today. Through playing video games, I realized I was really good at problem solving. I use problem solving every day as a Project Manager. If a project isn't going as planned or we are at a roadblock, I am able to creatively think of different solutions in order to move forward.</p> <p>What are you really good at? I'm looking forward to hearing more about your strengths!</p> <p>Take care, Troy</p>

Week 4 – Life After High School
<b>Objective</b>
Explore your student’s ideas about their future.
<b>Week 4 Main Question</b>
<i>I’m interested in what life looks like for you after high school. What would be your dream job if you could do anything?</i>
<b>Week 4 Talking Points &amp; Tips</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your message on the shorter side.</li><li>• Ask open ended questions.</li><li>• Maintain an interest in getting to know your student.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Warm Welcome</u>: Thank your student for reading your message, ask them how their weekend was, or wish them the best.</li><li>○ <u>Share Your Story</u>: Tell your student about your dream job when you were growing up. If you didn’t end up in that career, what led you to turn in a different direction?</li><li>○ <u>Ask a Question</u>: What would be your dream job if you could do anything?</li><li>○ <u>Expect Engagement</u>: Let your student know you are looking forward to hearing from them!</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Week 4 Example Message</b>
<p>Hello Radwan!</p> <p>How is your week going? Thanks for taking the time to read my message last week. This week, I’m looking forward to hearing more about your plans after high school.</p> <p>When I was in high school, I really wanted to be a nurse because my aunt is a nurse and I really admired her. However, I didn’t really enjoy my science classes. I enjoyed my math classes more, so I decided to look into math related careers like finance and accounting.</p> <p>I’m interested in learning more about what you want to do after high school. What’s your dream job?</p> <p>Looking forward to hearing from you! Gloria</p>

Week 5 – Lifelong Skills
<b>Objective</b>
<b>Encourage your student to think about skills will be needed in a future career.</b>
<b>Week 5 Main Question</b>
<i><b>I’m interested in talking about lifelong skills. What are some skills you think could be used in any future career?</b></i>
<b>Week 5 Talking Points &amp; Tips</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your message on the shorter side.</li> <li>• Ask open ended questions.</li> <li>• Maintain an interest in getting to know your student.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Warm Welcome</u>: Thank your student for reading your message, ask them what they like to do outside of school, or wish them the best.</li> <li>○ <u>Share Your Story</u>: Share what skills you use for your job. How did you develop them?</li> <li>○ <u>Ask a Question</u>: What skills are needed for a future career?</li> <li>○ <u>Expect Engagement</u>: Let your student know you are looking forward to hearing from them!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Week 5 Example Message</b>
<p>Hello Nevaeh!</p> <p>Thanks for taking the time to read my message last week! Writing a message to you has been the highlight of my week! This week I thought we could talk about skills that are needed in any future career.</p> <p>As an Inventory Analyst, the top skills I use every day are multi-tasking and attention to detail. I have to balance looking at multiple spreadsheets while working on a couple of bigger projects. I also read and analyze data daily, so it’s important to pay close attention to the details.</p> <p>I’m interested in hearing your thoughts! What skills do you think are needed for a future career?</p> <p>I hope you have a great week!</p> <p>Jayla</p>

Week 6 - Setting Short-Term Goals
<b>Objective</b>
<b>Help your student identify a short-term goal.</b>
<b>Week 6 Main Question</b>
<i>Everyone has goals or things they want to accomplish. Do you have any goals you're working on this semester at school or at home, or anything you're looking forward to finishing?</i>
<b>Week 6 Talking Points &amp; Tips</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your message on the shorter side.</li><li>• Ask open ended questions.</li><li>• Maintain an interest in getting to know your student.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Warm Welcome</u>: Consider starting with a comment on a recent seasonal, cultural, weather or holiday-related event that a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student would be aware of.</li><li>○ <u>Share Your Story</u>: Think back to high school and share a goal that you had at the time. Explain how you followed through. It's okay if the goal seems small to you now or if the goal is not school related.</li><li>○ <u>Ask a Question</u>: Do you have any goals you are working on this semester?</li><li>○ <u>Expect Engagement</u>: Let your student know you are looking forward to hearing from them!</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Week 6 Example Message</b>
<p>Hello Javier!</p> <p>Did you enjoy the warmer weather this weekend? I was able to get outside and go for a hike with my dog named Milo! This week, I would love to chit chat a little bit about goals.</p> <p>When I was in high school, I had a goal to make "first chair" in the band. "First chair" means you are the leader of your instrument section (I play the trumpet). In order to achieve my goal, I signed up for extra practices with my band teacher and talked to her about the qualities of a good leader. While I did not make "first chair" when I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I did become "first chair" in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and I was so excited!</p> <p>Is there a goal you are currently trying to reach? I would love to hear more about it!</p> <p>Take care, Rebecca</p>

Week 7 - Review Key Themes
<b>Objective</b>
Review the key themes covered during the Cloud Coach program and explore what you have learned.
<b>Week 7 Main Question</b>
<i>We've talked about your interests and strengths, goals in life, and skills for success. I'd like to know your thoughts about our time together. Can you think of something you learned about yourself?</i>
<b>Week 7 Talking Points &amp; Tips</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your message on the shorter side.</li><li>• Ask open ended questions.</li><li>• Maintain an interest in getting to know your student.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Warm Welcome</u>: Consider starting with a comment on a recent seasonal, cultural, weather or holiday-related event that a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student would be aware of.</li><li>○ <u>Share Your Story</u>: Share something positive that you learned about yourself. This could relate to your role as a mentor or to your home/work life.</li><li>○ <u>Ask a Question</u>: What have you learned during the Cloud Coach program?</li><li>○ <u>Expect Engagement</u>: Let your student know you are looking forward to hearing from them!</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Week 7 Message Example</b>
<p>Hello Sydney!</p> <p>Do you enjoy watching movies or TV shows over the weekend? This weekend I went to the movie theater and watched the newest Marvel movie! Do you have a favorite movie?</p> <p>Over the course of the Cloud Coach program, I've enjoyed reflecting about my time in high school and about my job as a Human Resources Manager. I especially enjoyed the week that focused on setting goals. It was a good reminder to set goals in both my personal and professional life. I'm now working on a personal goal of starting a blog!</p> <p>Is there anything you've learned during this Cloud Coach program?</p> <p>Looking forward to hearing from you! Abdi</p>

Week 8 - Validate and Affirm Your Student
Objective
<p><b>Acknowledge and validate your student. Express your belief in your student’s ability to achieve their goals and dreams.</b></p>
Week 8 Lead Statement
<p><i>I really enjoyed having the opportunity to write you a message each week! I appreciate you reading my messages, and I wish you all the best for the future.</i></p>
Week 8 Talking Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is your final message to your student.</li><li>• Keep your message on the shorter side.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Warm Welcome</u>: Thank your student for reading your message or wish them the best.</li><li>○ <u>Validate and Affirm Your Student</u>: See Week 8 Lead Statement above.</li></ul></li></ul>
Week 8 Message Example
<p>Good morning, Isabel!</p> <p>Thank you so much for reading my messages throughout the Cloud Coach program! I can’t believe this is already the last message I will be sending you.</p> <p>I truly wish you the best! I am excited for you as you navigate high school and think more about life after high school. You have the ability to reach all of your goals and dreams. You are a valuable person and I am thankful for being able to write to you each week.</p> <p>Take care! Padma</p>