**Student Mastermind Groups**

**Let’s take a deeper dive into mastermind groups.** The following are a few of the things you might do as you meet with your mastermind group:

* Share your journey with the group and let them hear what you are learning along the way
* Share your needs with others and ask for ideas or resources
* Share your frustrations (there’s a power to being vulnerable)
* Share your success stories and celebrate the success together
* Talk about potential collaboration options together

Student mastermind groups work well when engaged in long-term projects. However, they can also function as a way to focus on the learning process and to share learning goals. For example, undergraduate science students might meet together to share goals and to review their progress within the program. Meanwhile, students in a fifth-grade class might use the mastermind structure to review their reading goals.

The following is the mastermind “sweet seat” format (other groups call this the “hot seat”) that I used when I was working on my doctorate. My advisor first introduced us to this and I’ve since used it with other mastermind groups as well. I have modified the structure since then and I’d like to share it with you:

Roles:

* Facilitator: Guides the process
* Time-Keeper: Keeps everyone on track with time deadlines
* Scribe: Keeps track of goals

Part One: Welcome each other and assign or review roles for the day; facilitator asks who wants to go first, second, third, fourth, fifth that day

Part Two: Opening round: facilitator asks each person to complete the following (ten minutes total)

* Right now, I’m feeling \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* My “win” for the past week was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Regarding my commitment from the last week, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* One challenge I’m dealing with is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Part Three: “Sweet seat:” Time-keeper sets a timer for 10 minutes.

First person uses the time to discuss how they’re doing with their project, discuss any struggles/challenges and get support from others in the group.  Sharing for 5 minutes and leaving 5 minutes for feedback/support is a general practice. When the timer goes off, it’s the next person’s turn. We have a rule that nobody is allowed to interrupt the person during the “sweet seat” time. Instead, this person invites feedback by asking a question of saying, “I’d like feedback please.”

Part Four: Closing round: facilitator asks each person to complete the following (10 mins total)

* My “takeaway” from this meeting is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* This week I commit to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Scribe person writes these down in a safe place so they can be referenced the following week, because we can forget.)

Optional: Scheduling: review next meeting time, assign facilitator, scribe, and timekeeper roles