

SCRIPT FOR CONTACTING MENTOR

Hello, My name is _____ from _____
High School. I am hoping to speak with Dr. _____.

If Dr. _____ has answered phone, or is called to the phone, then say:

Hello, Dr. _____. As I said, my name is _____. I am a(senior, junior) at _____ High School and am enrolled in the Science Research Class for this academic year. I believe that you have been contacted by Val Havlick of the Boulder Valley School District about possibly mentoring a high school student. That is why I am calling you. I have read some of your work about _____ and am interested in researching _____. I find your work interesting and I am wondering if it would be possible to set up an appointment with you to explore the possibility of working with you or one of your graduate students in your lab (in the field) during the next several months. I would like to also discuss with you realistic research projects which I might consider.

or

If Dr. _____ is not available, ask when it might be a convenient time for you to call again. Try then to call at that time.

When you meet with the mentor for the first time and are assessing his/her fit with your interests, be sure you have a good idea of when you are available to work with him/her and how many hours a week you are able to give to the research. You are not meant to be a worker doing mundane tasks. You are expecting to be given a section of the project to work on and to learn about. If you have an original idea in mind, suggest it and ask if it is realistic and if the mentor would consider helping you with it.