Every March, millions of people around the world tune in for the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. The buzz around this event could help mentors spark conversations with young people about college exploration and planning. Created by MENTOR, this resource will help mentors support young people as they plan for their futures.

**TOP TEN TIPS FOR MENTORS TO LEVERAGE IN SUPPORTING YOUTH ON THEIR PATH TO COLLEGE**

1. **EXPLORE EFFECTIVE STUDY SKILLS.**
   - Homework Help
   - Ways to Make Studying More Fun

2. **PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORT.**
   - OR ASSIST YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES IN FINDING LOCAL TUTORING.
   - Find a Local Tutor

3. **COLLABORATE WITH YOUTH TO ENGAGE ACADEMIC ADVISORS**
   - TO ALIGN PLANS WITH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & CAREER PATHWAYS.
   - 20 Questions to Ask Your Guidance Counselor

4. **WORK ON DEVELOPING & PRACTICING CORE SKILLS.**
   - Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success

5. **ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENT & CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS IN ACTIVITIES THAT STRENGTHEN SELF-ESTEEM & SELF-CONFIDENCE.**
   - Tips from Mentoring Practitioners

6. **HELP YOUTH REFLECT ON & LEVERAGE THEIR STRENGTHS IN ACHIEVING THEIR ACADEMIC AND LIFE GOALS.**
   - Identify Your Personality Type
   - Find Your Strengths

7. **ENGAGE YOUTH IN EXPLORING THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE PROJECTS & GUIDE REFLECTIONS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES TO STRENGTHEN CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS.**
   - Find Volunteer Opportunities through:  www.volunteermatch.org or www.dosomething.org

8. **GUIDE YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES ON COLLEGE RESEARCH. BRAINSTORM WHAT TO CONSIDER & QUESTIONS TO ASK ON CAMPUS VISITS.**
   - Peterson’s: The Real Guide to Colleges and Universities
   - US News and World Report—Best Colleges
   - Campus Visit Checklist

9. **COACH YOUTH TO BRAINSTORM & OUTLINE THEIR APPLICATION ESSAYS, PRIORITIZE STORIES TO COMMUNICATE, & PROOFREAD ESSAYS MULTIPLE TIMES.**
   - Tips for Writing a College Essay

10. **RESEARCH FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS WITH YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES, EXPLORE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, & GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS.**
    - Understanding FAFSA
    - Ways to Pay for College

This resource was made possible by JPMorgan Chase & Co. through The Fellowship Initiative, a program created to expand economic opportunity for young people from economically distressed communities.