MENTORSHIP, AND RESTARTING CIVILIZATION FROM SCRATCH

If we lost everything, and had to restart civilization from scratch, could we do it?









THE MAZE RUNNER





VINTAG



COLONY



















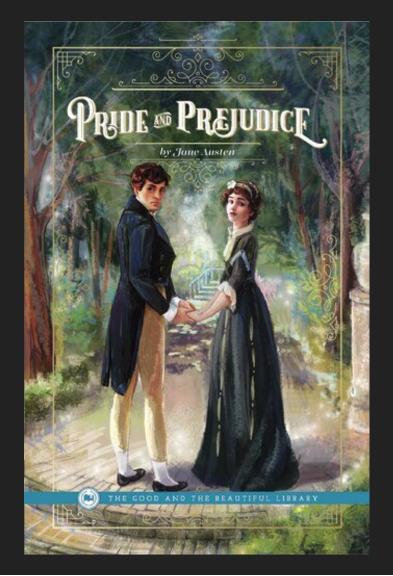
















IN A WORLD GONE DARK, POWER IS EVERYTHING.

REVOLUTION

2 seasons, 2012-14, NBC







What if everything as we know it stopped working, and we had to make do with what was left - or recreate everything from scratch?



Jeremy Meiss Ocircleci

Director, DevRel & Community













THE KNOWLEDGE

HOW TO REBUILD CIVILIZATION In the aftermath of a cataclysm

"A fascinating look at the basic principles of the most important technologies undergirding modern society."- THE WALL STRIET JOURNAL DEWIS DARTNELL















How did the ancients pass on what they knew to the next generation?



Orality - thought and verbal expression in societies where the technologies of literacy (especially writing and print) are unfamiliar to most of the population. - Wikipedia



Orality gave us the stepping stones that allowed us to get where we are today, it was a necessity for the growth of civilization.

- Couch, Carl J.,

Information Technologies and Social Orders





from the Chickasaw Nation



from the Luritja people



Oral tradition is a form of human communication wherein knowledge, art, ideas and cultural material is received, preserved, and transmitted orally from one generation to another. - Wikipedia





ancient Egyptian apprenticeshin



apprenticeship in England



source unknown



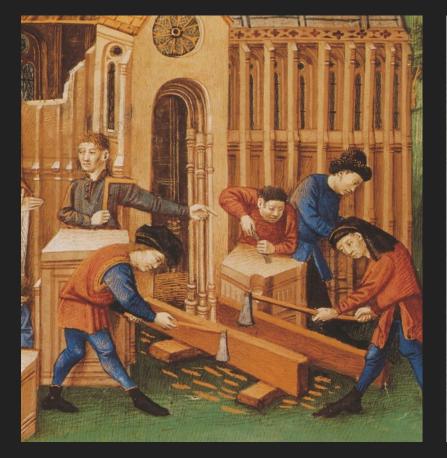
Apprenticeship





















66 After the fall of the great Egyptian, Mayan, and Roman empires we had evidence and examples of their engineering achievements all around us. But aqueducts or senate buildings are worthless without a society around them to maintain, contextualize, and protect them.

- Alexander Rose

Executive Director, Long Now



Coaching vs. Mentoring



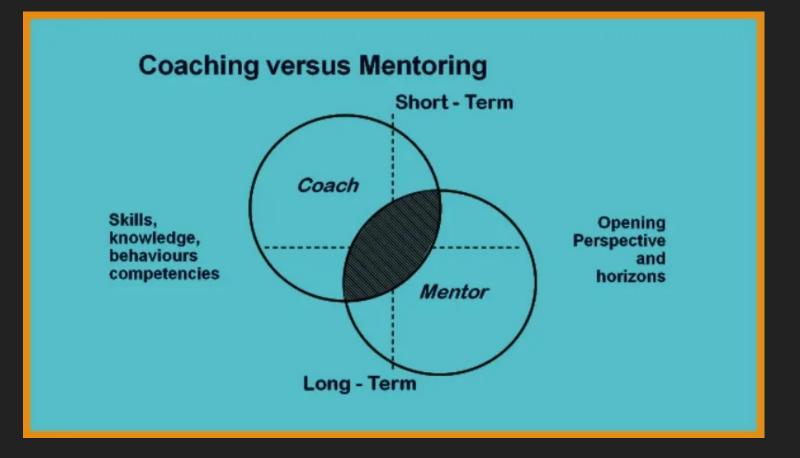




Image credit quiettenacity





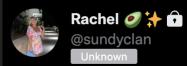
Practical steps to mentoring / being mentored



For the mentor...



Understand why you are / want to be a mentor



I LOVED being a mentor. Here are my tips and tricks 🧾

1. Always understand the why. Why you? What skills do you have as a mentor and why has the mentee chosen to work with you? Is this knowledge something that you actually think you possess? If not, be upfront about it.



...

Hard to identify mentee's ways of learning, but essential



Replying to @IAmJerdog

Something that I find challenging in mentoring is switching modes based on the needs of the individual. Some people want to know how you did something, some people want to brainstorm and figure it out...

Trying to determine what's needed is definitely a big challenge!

1:18 PM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Set a timeline and an outcome you both want to see



2. Set a timeline and set what outcome you and the mentor want to see from it. The mentor should be advancing skills they already have (communication, educating). The mentee should have a tangible outcome, i.e to get a new job offer within 3 months.

11:49 AM \cdot Jun 21, 2022 \cdot Twitter Web App



Replying to @IAmJerdog

I've had a 100% rate with mentorship when i teach my mentees about setting SMART objectives! it reduces stress and gives clarity when working on projects



Replying to @IAmJerdog

I mentored/managed someone to the point of them asking for a different lead, bc I pushed them toward goals the way I would have wanted, were I in their shoes.

I didn't know enough to mentor them toward what they wanted in the way they wanted.

Ruined things for both of us.

10:23 PM \cdot Jun 11, 2022 \cdot Twitter Web App



When setting up meetings with your mentee...

...



3. Mentor should set what topic they will focus on in every meeting. Do not leave it to chance. If the outcome is to get a new job, each meeting should focus on 1 small step towards that goal: Session One: Discovering your talents, Session 2: Identifying roles etc.

11:49 AM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App

1. Set focused topics for when you meet with mentee towards that desired outcome



When setting up meetings with your mentee...

...



4. Leave 10 min at the end of every session to recap learnings and evaluate how it went. Some sessions will veer off into deep discussions - this is fine. But also acknowledge this and ensure the next session is focused.

11:49 AM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App

2. Recap what was discussed / learned after each



When setting up meetings with your mentee...

. . .



Finally: Track progress in a shared doc. Pause/cancel mentorship if parties miss or turn up late regularly. Always leave on good terms, "Be kind on your way up as you'll meet them again on your way down"

11:49 AM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App

3. Keep a shared doc of meetings notes and progress



It's OK to not know



Replying to @IAmJerdog

I had the opportunity to mentor a college student a few years ago. One of the things I remember telling her during one of our first meetings was that it's perfectly acceptable to say you don't know something, especially during an interview.

3:56 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter for Android



model behavior. +1 to @garethgreenaway - model that it's ok to say I don't know in any situation. model how they should ask for help and how to share information and how to interact with teammates and how to give props to folks and how to connect folks with other folks. 5/?

4:58 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Use questions to shape decision-making, not robots



Cecelia Martinez @ceceliacreates

Replying to @IAmJerdog

One thing I've gotten better at is helping mentees think through things themselves by asking questions. Instead of saying "do this" or "this is what I would do", I'll ask "what are your options here?", "what research needs to be done?", etc to let them practice decision making.

11:40 AM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

- Get around biases for assumed knowledge
- 2. 2. Understand their thought process
 - 3. Identify gaps



Can't save someone from stupid mistakes, but can tell them how you fixed them



Heidi, Sticker Thoughtleader @wiredferret Normal 0%

Replying to @IAmJerdog and @StCyrThoughts

I can't tell someone to not do the stupid thing I did, but I can tell them what worked for me to fix it.

1:11 PM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Pair with mentee, think out loud, try wild ideas, fail together, and debug together



Beth Qiang @bethqiang Unknown

pair with mentees. probably spend very little time with your own hands on the keyboard and much more time thinking out loud. consider wild ideas and why they may or may not work. try some stuff together and more importantly, fail together. 2/?

4:57 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



include them in your own debugging sessions. I've been told by SO MANY less experienced engineers that it's enormously helpful to see the steps I take and thoughts I have as I'm debugging. even if/when I'm flailing around and feel like I have no idea what I'm doing. 3/?

4:57 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Normalize "I have no idea WTF I am doing"



(also, it's good for them to see that sometimes you, a more experienced engineer, have no idea what you're doing. normalize that.) 4/?

4:58 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



show them that yes, I do in fact still look up syntax for "simple" things (e.g. Array.slice) and the difference between flexbox's align-items and justify-content every time. 9/?

5:00 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Model how to get others promoted



Beth Qiang @bethgiang

model how to get folks promoted. once upon a time, I was put up for a promotion and @mercedescodes was one of the folks who wrote a mini-essay detailing why I should be promoted with very specific evidence and projects to back it up. 6/?

2:59 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



she sent it to me for review prior to submitting, which whether intentionally or not, gave me an example to work off of for the mini-essays I now write for other folks to support their promotions. 7/?

2:59 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



I also send these to those folks to review before submitting, and hopefully when it comes time for them to write mini-essays of their own for other folks, they have an example to work off of. 8/?

2:59 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Show you aren't finished learning



•••

less experienced engineers have plenty to teach/share too - just because I have more technical experience doesn't mean I can't learn from them. point out when they've taught you something new. 10/?

3:00 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Help them share to a broader audience if they desire



encourage them to give lightning talks or give conference talks or write blog posts or etc. about things. help them put together said talks/posts/etc. help them publicize it and if possible, be there as a friendly face in the crowd. 11/?

3:00 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



As a mentee...



It's OK to not know



Replying to @IAmJerdog

I had the opportunity to mentor a college student a few years ago. One of the things I remember telling her during one of our first meetings was that it's perfectly acceptable to say you don't know something, especially during an interview.

3:56 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter for Android



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4:58 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Come prepared with what you want to learn, questions you want answered



David G. Simmons 🥥 💉 🖋 💉 今 💳 🜻 @davidgsloT

Replying to @IAmJerdog

I ask mentees to come prepared. Write up a list of things you want to learn, areas you think you might be weak in that you'd like to improve, etc. come to your meetings with me prepared with questions, topics, etc.

2:01 PM · Jun 25, 2022 · Twitter for iPad



Specific takeaways... for white males

...



for white men reading along - this means investing time into underrepresented/marginalized folks, and not just women and POC, but ex-incarcerated folks, first gen college students (or didn't go to college at all), single parents, etc. 16/?

3:04 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



making the industry more diverse and representative shouldn't be a burden that the diverse and underrepresented solely bear. 17/?

3:04 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Specific takeaways... for non-white males

...



Unknown

speaking especially as a non-white woman: seek out folks who may have a similar background as you, and ask for their help and advice. 13/?

3:01 PM \cdot Jun 11, 2022 \cdot Twitter Web App



but, there's a special kind of community and kinship and vulnerability that's almost immediately present with folks who are more like you. 15/?

3:02 PM \cdot Jun 11, 2022 \cdot Twitter Web App



that's not to say that if they're a non-white woman, they shouldn't seek out mentorship from white men. I've learned a lot from some very amazing, wonderful, patient, supportive, aware, and kind white men. 14/?

3:02 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



A bit on mentorship wins and failures



You can't mentor someone to success



Replying to @mooreds and @IAmJerdog

I also tried to mentor someone who had been hired incorrectly (in part due to my feedback). Tried to mentor them so the co could retain. No matter how much time I gave, it didn't work.

They departed and are successful elsewhere.

You can't mentor someone to success.

8:27 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App



The good and the bad, together



Erin Mikail Staples @erinmikail Normal 3%

Replying to @IAmJerdog

What good mentorship does:

- builds confidence
- empowers you to be more you
- reduces barriers

What good mentorship doesn't do:

- teaches mimicry of mentors skills
- ignores nuance of mentees experience
- forces one "right" path

12:06 PM · Jun 12, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Remember people are humans with feelings and personal lives



Replying to @IAmJerdog and @jrssnet

Having managed teams for 20+ years the best thing I've learned is remember people are humans who have feelings and personal lives. While we're often told to leave those at home, the best orgs embrace them. 1/3

2:24 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Replying to @2jase @IAmJerdog and @jrssnet

We arranged scheduling, meetings, deliverables around the personal issue. Previous annual review was bottom 20%. That year was top 10% - in a firm of over 20k ppl - while being happier & more productive. Proudest achievement of my career. 3/3



Replying to @2jase @IAmJerdog and @jrssnet

Years ago, a junior coworker was falling far behind at work. I asked that they be put on my team rather than being fired. After a long, careful, private convo I leaned of a major, difficult, time-consuming personal issue. 2/3

2:26 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



2:31 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

So what are some of the takeaways from all this?



Always be learning





Mentorship isn't always from older to younger



Replying to @IAmJerdog

Mentorship isn't always an older to younger phenomenon.

I've received mentorship from people far younger than me, and hopefully given some good advice to people older than me.

7:39 AM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter for Android



Make yourself available - people are looking



"Mentorship is a right and a duty." --@edasque

#monktoberfest

8:56 AM · Oct 3, 2019 · Twitter Web App



Replying to @IAmJerdog

rossedman

@datahowler

Normal 3%

How to find a mentor. I never had one. Struggled my whole career to learn lessons that probably could've been taught easily or earlier on. I still feel lost even though I have to help others

8:53 AM · Jun 12, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Recognize as a Mentor when it's time to pass the baton - make a connection for the Mentee



Jana Iris @janaboruta Unknown

Replying to @IAmJerdog and @richburroughs

Mentees need intros and access to people and companies.

4:40 AM \cdot Jun 12, 2022 from Lower East Side, Manhattan \cdot Tweetbot for iOS



A quick note on sponsorship



MENTORS

people who can give us

helpful advice

SPONSORS

people who help us find new opportunities and improve the visibility of

our work

Lara Hogan, Tech Management Coach and Trainer





Illustration by Catt Small



Mentorship

Sponsorship

 Mentors are mirrors that help define your dream, your strengths, advise and guide.

 Sponsors act as spotlights, creating luck by lifting others into new spaces





If you're a 'senior' or 'staff' or 'principle' or 'distinguished' engineer, you'll do well by reading this. Mature engineers lift the skills and expertise of those around them.

12:33 PM · Jun 11, 2019 · Twitter Web Client



Mature teammates list the skills and expertise **AND NAMES** of those around them. - Lara Hogan,

What does sponsorship look like?





@Jo_Miller mentors give me perspective, but sponsors give me opportunity. I find having both v helpful.

11:52 AM · Mar 29, 2014 from Frankfurt on the Main, Germany · Twitter for iPhone



Marginalized people are **over-mentored**, and **under-sponsored**. - Lara Hogan,

What does sponsorship look like?











Thank you to....

- Rachel @sundyclan
- Beth @bethqiang
- Cecilia @ceceliacreates
- Heidi @wiredferret
- Erin @erinmikail
- Jason @StCyrThoughts
- Dan @mooreds
- Tamimi @TweetTamimi
- Gareth @garethgreenaway
- David @davidgsloT
- Ben @RabbiGreenberg
- Jason @2jase
- Ross @datahowler

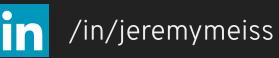
Thank You.





IAmJerdog

DEV jerdog



For feedback and swag: circle.ci/jeremy