



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

Office of Student Life

## Top Ten Tips for Effective Advisors...From Other Advisors

*We asked seasoned student club/organization advisors, "If you could tell a group of fellow advisors anything to make them better advisors, what would you tell them?"*

1. The most important thing you can do to help them is gain their trust. If you've done that, almost everything else will take care of itself.
2. Do what you say you will do.
3. Read what they ask you to sign before you sign it!
4. When they tell you they've thought of everything, keep asking them questions.
5. Don't expect a thank you note after everything you do to help the students out. Not expecting it will make it that much sweeter when it does come.
6. You don't have to be an expert on everything. Just use your best judgment. No one is a perfect advisor.
7. Be an encourager. Take the opportunity to praise the good things they're doing.
8. Choose your battles. Sometimes I have to challenge my students to keep them from making the gravest of mistakes, but other times I know that confronting them on something trivial could be far more damaging than letting them fail. Encourage students to take initiative and don't give all the answers.
9. Don't let them forget to take care of themselves and their studies.
10. Stay involved, be available, and attend meetings as often as possible.



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## Top Ten Tips for Effective Advisors...From Student Leaders

We asked student club/organization leaders, "If you could tell a group of advisors anything to make them better advisors, what would you tell them?"

1. The best advisor I ever had made me feel like he/she always had time for me, even though I know how busy he/she was.
2. Remember that this is our student club/organization experience, and while we want you be part of it, we don't want you to control it...even if that means letting us mess up.
3. Use your connections to help us get things done.
4. Get to know us on a personal level. Every once in a while, it's okay to ask us questions about things other than the club/organization.
5. Sometimes we need help with things that have nothing to do with the club/organization, and it's good to know that you're willing to be there for that.
6. Return my calls and e-mails as soon as you can. As bad as this sounds, sometimes I haven't exactly planned a whole lot of time for waiting to hear back.
7. If you're going to tell us something won't work, please help us figure out how it *can* work instead of leaving it at that.
8. We like to see you at our events sometimes...not just the meetings.
9. Be a friend, mentor, a teacher!
10. Don't be afraid to bring some snacks with you to our meetings!