

## **Pause and Reflect on Your Own Background**

### **Educational Background**

- Who were your academic advisors as an undergraduate?
- Did they help you accommodate your interests and abilities? How?
- What qualities about them were helpful? Not helpful?
- Can you attribute part of your success in earning your undergraduate degree to them? Why or why not?
- Did they try to mold you to the demands of the institutions; did they create opportunities for you within the confines of your institution?
- What were you like as a student?
- How did you really feel about General Education and major requirements?
- Are there any memorable events that you'd like to help your advisees replicate and avoid?
- Do you wish you were still a student? Are you still a student? Are you a lifelong learner?
- To what do you attribute your success (or lack thereof) as a student?

### **Cultural Background**

- What words do you use to define yourself? How are others likely to describe you?
- Are you knowledgeable about cultures other than your own?
- Do you encounter or expect to encounter any radical differences between your self and those you advise?
- How do you make a person comfortable in your office if he/she is radically different from you?

### **Discourse Style**

- How do you show students that you are listening to them?
- Are you comfortable with holding authority? Are you able to give students a piece of your mind?
- How good are you at relinquishing authority (or at seeming to)?

### **Motives for Advising**

- So, why are you doing this?