

LESSONS LEARNED
AT THE FLIGHT
9319-11 RESEARCH
GROUP

"I'M JUST WONDERING WHAT TO DO": MENTORING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GROUP

Rebecca Price
rebecca.price@pitt.edu
University of Pittsburgh



Student wants to mold a project to reach future educational/career goals.

- **Librarian Mentor...**
- builds student confidence in reading, writing, researching, project management, and teamwork

Student undertakes project without a faculty mentor in the same discipline.

- **Librarian Mentor...**
- teaches student to look for appropriate research in appropriate places
- helps student understand discipline lingo

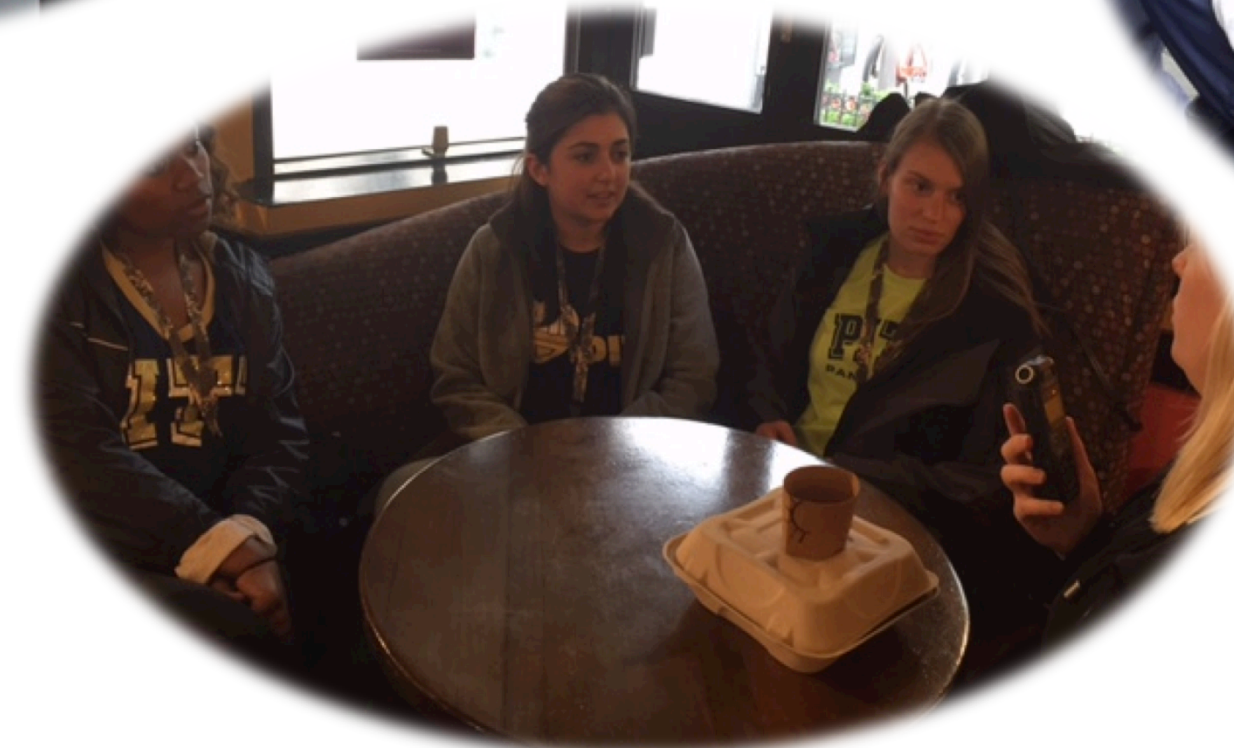
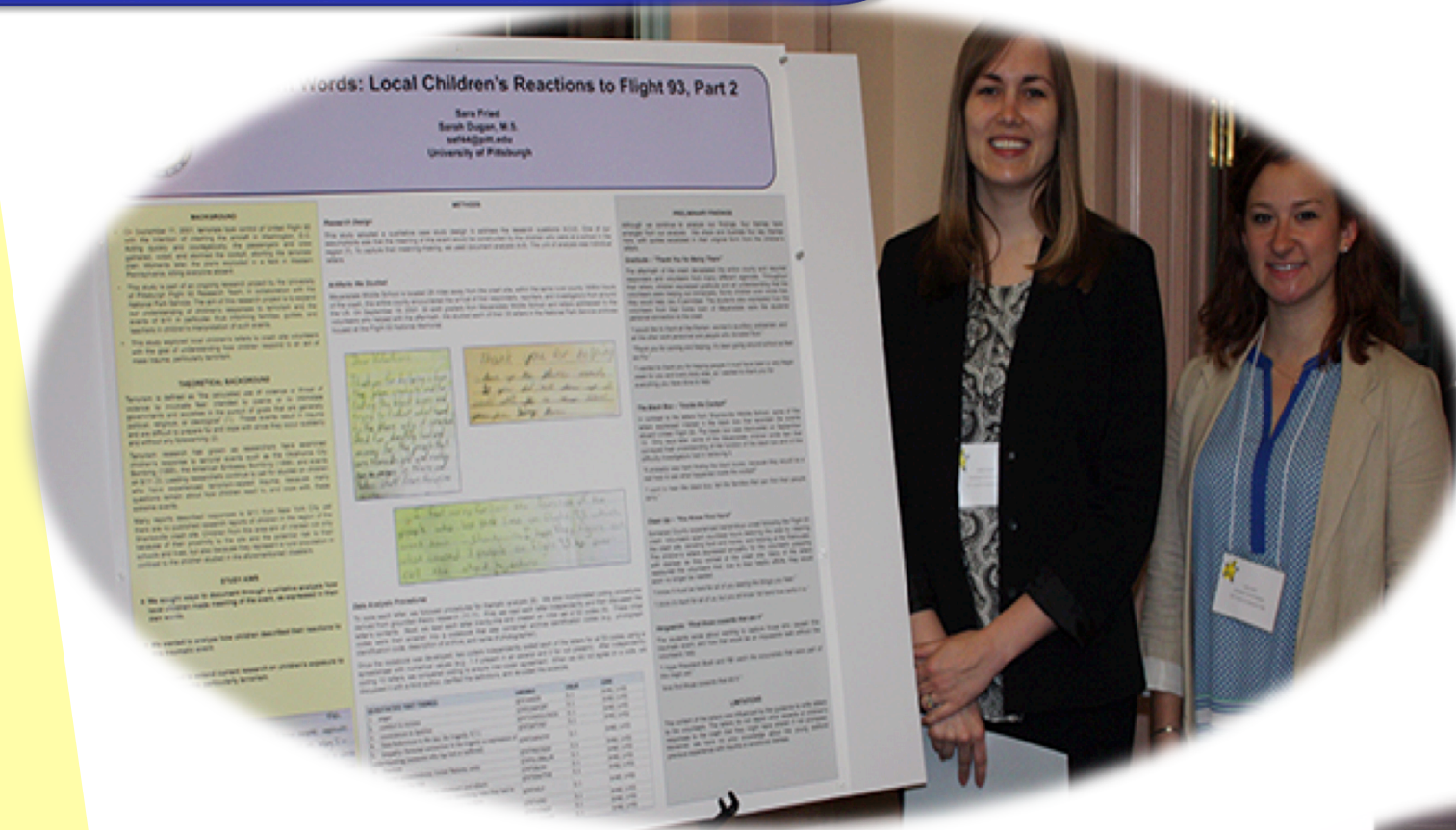
Student feels uncomfortable asking for help from faculty.

- **Librarian Mentor...**
- is a friendly co-researcher, not "the boss"
- assists with "stupid" questions

Student needs help right here, right now!

- **Librarian Mentor...**
- is familiar with the project
- provides just in time instruction

Students choose their own projects...
...based on their disciplines and post-undergraduate goals
...and they create literature reviews
...that become parts of co-authored, peer-reviewed articles or conference poster sessions.



Just-in-time instruction means mentoring undergraduate researchers through...

- ...questioning
- ...searching
- ...narrowing
- ...synthesizing
- ...and questioning again.