**Session 2**

**Case Study: The Sulky Undergraduate**

I mentored an undergraduate student who came from another university for the summer.

I explained the project to him and taught him some basic techniques and approaches needed for the project.

Because my professor and I did not think he had sufficient background for a more complicated project, we chose to have him work on a more basic one.

He was very quiet for the first 10 days of the project, and then he went to my advisor and complained about the project. He said he wanted a project “like Mark’s.” Mark was a student with a strong disciplinary background, and his project was much more advanced. My advisor insisted that my mentee keep the project I had designed for him, but the student became sulky. As the summer went on and he didn’t get much of the work done, I began to wonder if he understood what we were doing or even cared about it.