



EDITION 3

FOCUS ON FREELANCING!

WHAT IS FREELANCING?

Freelance professionals are self-employed experts who independently offer specialized services to clients or organizations, managing their own projects, schedules, and income. They bring flexibility, innovation, and diverse skills, often collaborating across industries to meet evolving personal, professional, and community needs.

MEET A QUIRK
MENTEE™

HIGH SCHOOL
FREELANCERS



"Hi there! I'm **Grace Pineda Cepin** freelance graphic designer with a passion for creating visually engaging designs that connect, inspire, and communicate. As a June 2025 graduate of Health, Arts, Robotics and Technology High School With experience in branding, digital design, and social media content, I love helping clients bring their ideas to life through thoughtful and impactful visuals.

With only an estimated 15,000 guaranteed professional internships available for Summer 2026, but more than 80,000 NYC public high school juniors and seniors seeking meaningful opportunities, the gap is undeniable. Developing young people into freelancers helps bridge this divide. Freelancing empowers students, like **Grace**, to create their own professional pathways and connect with mentors while gaining real-world experience often reserved for college students and graduates. By cultivating the next generation of freelancers, we not only address the internship shortfall but also prepare youth to thrive in a rapidly changing economy.

**Want to help?
Here is how!!**

Become a guest facilitator of a mentoring or coaching session

Host a job shadowing experience or business lunch

Refer a local or virtual community service organization

Host an unpaid or paid internship

Refer a colleague, family member, friend to become a professional development workforce host

Hire a young freelance mentee for a project

Make a donation toward ABT to sponsor a Summer 2026 Intern or Freelancer

Where do I sign up/donate?

<https://abtservicescorp.org/>

LEARN ABOUT QUIRK MENTORING AT

<https://quirkmentoring.net/>