

Newbie Alert

Hello new tutor,

This is you from the future! Just kidding. Tutoring is like any new activity you might start; it is both exciting and a little scary. Don't be afraid though! The Student Success Center has so many resources—the support team, other tutors, books—to help you develop into a successful tutor. The tutoring experience will help you connect and communicate in a professional and friendly setting.

Throughout the entire quarter in EWRT 97, we have covered reading and writing processes, strategies to equip tutees with the skills they need to succeed, the roles a tutor plays, grammar, how to be professional in a tutorial session, and much more. I have dealt with independent and dependent clauses and how to connect them across the EWRT levels and one ESL level. Although I am confident with grammar, I had difficulties planning a session that involves an essay. The class will teach you how to identify important issues that should be addressed first. However, after applying the theory to my practice, I have a better understanding of the English language. After several weeks of practice, I have gained confidence in my tutoring skills. No longer do certain tasks seem daunting. The questions tutees ask me either reinforce my knowledge or force me to search for the answers I don't know or have forgotten. Not only have we learned about the technical/mechanical skills, but also how to deal with tutees on an interpersonal level. Being aware of your body language and your tutee's body language will help you adjust your actions appropriately. After all, we are peer tutors. By definition, a peer is someone who is of equal status of another. Nevertheless, you must remain professional and firm during the quarter. In the end, your tutee and you may become friends. Who knows? You and your tutee may get married one day. If you are unsure of what to do next or how to plan your session, reevaluate the situation and don't be afraid to ask Victoria or Sandy for help!

Have an open mind and an open heart. Each tutee will have different backgrounds, learning styles, writing styles, English levels, and personalities. Realizing the differences between individuals will help you aid that specific tutee more efficiently. Ask your tutees questions about themselves, and share information about yourself to build trust with your tutee. The most rewarding part of the job is to see your tutees' growth and improvement.

Overall, be yourself, and you will discover your own tutoring style! Incorporate the knowledge you have acquired over your lifetime and the lessons you have learned in class to make the best out of your tutoring experience. You do not need to know all the answers; the SSC staff, other tutors, handbooks, and the internet will allow you to inform your tutee of what they need to know. Spend your time wisely in the WRC; it may become your second home. Lastly, remember the three P's: patience, positivity, and persistence.