Quotes from Fall 2011 tutors in EWRT 97 “Letters to Future Tutors”

When I first started with the tutor training I felt confident about my English skills because I had done so well in my EWRT classes. It was when I dove into the training that I realized that regardless of my skills, there was still so much that I didn’t know. ... Of all the things I learned however, the two most important skills I was: listening and organizing.

ps. This training was one of the highlights of my academic experience. Not only because I got to help people but also, I made some really great friends! The tutors you train with, if they are anything like the ones I trained with, will be AWESOME. They’re a great group of people with MAD English skills. I appreciated working with them and they made the training a fulfilling experience.”

I first came into this class, naïve and ready, to pounce on every problem presented by every tutee. After meeting my first tutee, I realized that I still had many things that I did not know. I suppose that I did know, but I did not know how to explain them. Meaning, I did know that the sentence did not sound correct, but I did not know why. This feeling of not-knowing sickened me. ...Due to the love that grew in me to tutor, and the love that I saw grow in my tutees to be tutored, my job became nothing more than absolute, true learning sessions. ...In class, we were surely able to get glimpses of one another’s personality, but through the online forums, there was something mystical that drew everyone’s attention—all personalities would be let loose. I was able to read my peers’ thoughts and comments, and become familiar with their diverse writing styles.

Hold no expectations except for the bare minimal, because (surprise!) these people will have lives, apart from seeing you for a one-hour-fling every week. I cannot tell you to expect anything, but prepare for everything. Just expect the unexpected, and you will set yourself, and your tutees, up for success. Apart from all of that, be sure to submit your timecard on time for approval. Remember, money is just a side-benefit.

I think I have finally found a job which I truly enjoy doing.

Becoming a successful tutor is almost impossible to achieve on your own, you’ll most definitely need help.

First of all, DO NOT BE FOOLED. Tutoring is neither the laidback job of being a proofreader nor the powerful position of being a teacher. It is, however, a GREAT way to score some free food from tutees who believe in expressing their gratitude in the form of some Belgian chocolate cookies or a home-cooked bowl of pho. (True story!)
For everyone who came in with their guards up and planned to leave the same way, they were happily mistaken. The time we spent in class was almost like a mini tutor therapy session. We were encouraged to teach and to learn from each other at the same time – which is, essentially, what tutoring is all about.

I love that each of my tutees are different, that they are difficult and sometimes offensive, that I don't understand them, and that they come from different countries and cultures because if they weren't like this, I would have never learned how to effectively work with different types of people. It's a valuable life lesson, and I'm so grateful to my tutees.

The class dynamic is way different than any other class I've taken at De Anza. Expect to have a great time as part of a community of helpful and knowledgeable staff and students.

While I feel like it is my obligation to attend all my other classes, the tutor training is just what I look forward every week. In the past, I didn't often stay in De Anza after class, but now I would spend my time in WRC simply because of the great atmosphere.

Before enrolling in this class, I normally dropped blunt, subjective comments towards mistakes my friends made on their essay, which of course, I believed would help them to comprehend their mistakes better. But after going over the “Readerly Responses”, I became aware of how crucial it is to choose wise words to say to my tutees when it comes to correcting their essays.

Do expect to have a great experience both from the training class and your job as a WRC tutor throughout the quarter. My fellow tutors are great people and we have become good friends. They will support you whenever you need help, no matter personal problems or work problems. The training class is the most enjoyable one I have ever had in De Anza. While I feel like it is my obligation to attend all my other classes, the tutor training is just what I look forward every week. In the past, I didn't often stay in De Anza after class, but now I spend my time in WRC simply because of the great atmosphere.