My Transformation

During high school I wasn’t very studious. I had trouble in all of my classes and especially struggled on essay writing. If I went back to my old high school and told my lit teachers that I was tutoring for English they would be shocked. It wasn’t until college that I really began to understand lit and how to write an effective essay. My college level lit class taught me new material and completely changed everything I knew about English. This was a huge step in my tutoring career because if I hadn’t taken that class I wouldn’t be tutoring today. Renato and Kanako tracked me down based on my lit grades and asked me to be a tutor for ESL students. At first I couldn’t believe that I was being asked to tutor. I truly thought it might have been a mistake. It wasn’t until I checked my transcript when I realized I got A’s in all of my literature-based classes at De Anza. I was hesitant to decide whether or not I should take the offer. I never had any formal tutoring training before and didn’t know if I could actually do well. I didn’t want to take the job unless I knew that I would help students effectively. Luckily for me, the tutoring class taught by Ken Weisner and Diana Alves de Lima helped me every step of the way.

Without the tutoring class I definitely don’t think I could have helped tutees as well. The class gave me the resources and knowledge necessary for being a great tutor. When I first began tutoring the thing I was most worried about was my own confidence. Tutoring for the first time can definitely be stressful and challenging, yet quite rewarding as well. As time went on I became more comfortable socially with my tutees as well as comfortable in a tutoring environment. It took weeks for my nerves to settle, but eventually tutoring became second nature for me. Just from doing it every week I got so used to it. I didn’t have to try much because it mostly came naturally. I also learned a lot of different facts about English and cultural differences through tutoring and the tutoring class.

Future tutors don’t have much to worry about. It is the least stressful job I have ever had. The staff is friendly, helpful, and always there when in need. The best part is that you aren’t expected to know everything about English. If there were ever a question I was unsure about, I would pull out my tutor packet and find the correct answer. If the packet didn’t hold the answer I could ask staff, other tutors, consult the internet, or look through the available resources in the WRC. As long as you take the time to help the tutee find the answer, you are doing a good job. As a tutee you will have a great time in class with Ken and Diana. The class dynamic is way different than any other class I’ve taken at De Anza. Attendance is mandatory, but the class was helpful and fun. Expect to have a great time as part of a community of helpful and knowledgeable staff and students. Also remember that the WRC is a great resource for help on your own writing assignments as well.