Dear Future Tutor,

Congratulations and welcome to the team!

I’m sure you must have mixed feelings about tutoring and that’s normal. It’s all something we go through in the beginning. You may feel some pressure in tutoring someone but the truth is, as a tutor you will be the one learning much more than the tutee. You may experience difficult situations at times, but will also find the joy in helping others.

When I first started tutoring, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I imagined it to be something along the lines of going over a few papers and help someone with their grammar. When I first applied for the tutoring position, I didn’t think too much about it. But once I started to receive my tutee’s applications, I began to have doubts on if I can really help my tutees in what they needed. However, as we started out tutoring class, my fears and doubt slowly started to disappear.

The weekly tutoring class has been a great help. Not only did we learn different tutoring methods and grammar rules we had all forgotten about, but I was able to grow a strong bond with many of my classmates. If we had a question, we asked and if we had a problem, we talked about it. Not only did we have technical support, we also had the support of each other. Being able to share the same experience with others gave you a sense of comradely and the energy to continue on.

In class we learned how to interact with our tutees and different situations we may come across. How to introduce yourself to your tutee, how much is too much, what do we do when we come across plagiarism, or what if your tutee asks you out for coffee? All this and more were discussed in class. The more tutoring sessions we had, the more questions and discussions we had. I learned a great deal during our discussion and it has helped improve on my tutoring skills as well.

When you start tutoring you may experience many different things. One thing I learned while tutoring and was an “aha” moment for me was when I realized how important reading was in order for you to write. I had a tutee whose writing skills were very good, but her reading was not. When she received her prompts for her assignments, she didn’t understand them correctly. So even though her writing skills were good, because the topic she was writing about was not correct she was not able to receive a passing grade. When you become a tutor for the WRC, you might think you’ll be tutoring people in their writing, but remember, we’re tutors for both writing and reading. You may be surprised at how important and critical reading is.

You will also be tutoring many different tutees. Not just in the level of their classes but also personality wise as well. Some can be very quiet, some can be loud, some can be hardworking, and some can be occasionally lazy. You may have tutees that come to you because they really need you help and appreciate it. But there are times when you may have a tutee who is just there because their teacher told them to and in reality they just don’t want to be there. In any case, don’t worry, be yourself and just do your best. If yourself and just do your best. If you have a tutee who doesn’t want to be there, it’s okay. Don’t take it too personally. Just try working with them and if it all fails, talk to a supervisor, they’re always there to help.

Speaking of supervisors...talk to them! They’re all really great! They’re your supervisor, friend, mentor, and a lot more! Never think you’re alone, turn to your fellow classmates and teachers; they’ll be more than happy to help you. Once you start tutoring, you’ll be asked a lot of questions. Some of them you may be able to answer and some you may not. But that’s okay too! If you don’t know the answer, it okay to tell your tutee you don’t know. Hey, we’re all human. One good way might be to look up whatever you both don’t know together. Both you and the tutee will learn something new and it’s a win-win situation. You’ll eventually start to remember and also learn the different grammar and writing rules, that’s the easy part, because it’s all written down. But
there is no real rule in tutoring or with person to person communication. You have to first meet and get to know the person. As long as you're doing your best and care about what you do, that's all that matters. (I mean there are other things that matter but what you do, that's all that matters. (I mean there are other things that matter but you know what I mean.) Be sincere and thoughtful, the experience you have as a tutor will definitely help you grow as a person and the feeling of helping someone, seeing them improve and even yourself improve is AMAZING! Good luck with tutoring! I'm sure you'll be a great tutor! 😊