

Over the past 6 months, I have had the privilege of working with 2 underprivileged students for over 50 hours total. These students have inspired me with their hard work, determination, and optimism. I look forward to tutoring my students every weekend because of their jubilant personalities that brighten up my day after a long and stressful week in high school. Although these two students do not have the best education and learning abilities, they come to class eager to improve on their English skills to communicate and write better. While tutoring these children, I have reflected on myself and learned many lessons that have contributed to self growth as a leader and contributing member of society.

To begin, my students' immense passion for learning has inspired me to try my best every session. There have been days where my students don't cooperate or they are tired after a long day. Sometimes, my students arrive unmotivated to class because their parents interrupted them while they were playing their favorite games. In these moments, I had to adjust and put myself in the child's shoes. Therefore, I learned how to encourage my students and provide incentives such as educational games to enhance the learning of my students. I recognized that a class without engagement is a class without learning because if my students are bored, they will not grasp the information. By implementing various techniques, I not only gained the trust and built a strong bond with the students, I also saw improved grades in their English classes. This motivation and desire to learn, truly inspired me to be the best tutor I can be. The students' energy and stories they told me always made my day and inspired me to be positive like them. Those little moments gave me the responsibility to strive to be a better mentor and to work hard with positivity.

There were many challenges I encountered throughout my time tutoring with students. One student had behavioral issues and had difficulties focusing, so it was demanding to address this issue. However, with resilience and empathy, I was able to handle these issues and employ different methods to ensure a smooth class. My experience tutoring is similar to one YLDP speaker, Dr. Ratna Kumar, who exemplified excellence with her patience and passion to teach young children the intricate art of Kuchipudi. Tutoring students requires patience, so Dr. Ratna Kumar was a role model for me while helping my students learn.

Overall, this experience has been extremely fulfilling and gave me great insight into how I can be the best mentor and teacher for young children. This opportunity has significantly enhanced my leadership and communication skills. I will definitely continue tutoring and improve my leadership skills to give my students the best learning experience possible.