

Helen Tasho

My tutoring experience at the Literacy Center has been very positive thus far. I've learned a lot more not only about tutoring English and working with people at different literacy levels, but I've also learned more about myself and how much I enjoy not only tutoring English, but tutoring in general. I've tutored for science classes in the past and I knew that I liked working with students, but my tutoring experience at the literacy center has confirmed this. Additionally, I was highly considering pursuing academia in my respective profession, and this experience has strengthened that consideration. I enjoy breaking away from my normal study and class schedule twice a week, and giving a few hours to people who really need help learning English. It's rewarding and has helped me learn more about learning English, and it has shown me how lengthy of a process it is to learn English. It oftentimes reminds me of my parents' journey learning English and the classes they took. I recently started to incorporate more conversation into my lessons in order to improve my learners' conversational skills. We usually discuss current events, their jobs, their goals, and other miscellaneous things. As an example, I had two learners in one session one evening and we talked about our favorite vacations, where we want to vacation next, and what we look for in travel destinations. This allows me to gauge where the learners are in their conversational skills, as well as talking about something interesting that can segue into a different topic, like different foods and cuisines. A problem that I oftentimes have run into during my sessions is running out of conversation material. I have the same two or three learners every week, so we have already touched on my go-to topics. I usually talk about what they did over the weekend, what they're doing this week, etc., but I have trouble finding other things to talk about. My main goal currently is to keep coming up with conversation topics for the learners. I'm excited for the second half of tutoring!