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2023 Spring P2P Short Essay (6 hours)

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It has been approximately six weeks since I participated in P2P. My buddy is currently in elementary school, and she is the sweetest and brightest girl. At first, we both experienced technical difficulties, but soon meeting once a week became a routine. Usually, we go over the subjects of Math, Science, English, and writing. My buddy is a quiet hard worker. Sometimes, when she makes common mistakes, I can tell that she loses confidence. As a senior in high school, learning from my mistakes and embracing specific methods that worked for me was crucial. I wanted my buddy to know that it wasn't the end of the world for a small math calculation mistake. I have learned to improve my teaching skills in multiple ways, one by advancing some materials and another by dumbing them down to eye level. My buddy is a faster learner compared to other peers her age. I am beyond grateful to support and help such a sweet girl.

Staying consistent and patient with my buddy has always been my priority for my tutoring sessions. I have learned that complimenting and acknowledging my buddy's accomplishments, allows her to be more comfortable with me. It took some time for her to open up to me and ask questions. To fulfill our tutoring sessions, for specific problems she had difficulty with, I would solve the problem step by step. Then, I would allow her to solve a problem on her own. Usually, I use the JamBoard software on Google Meets so she can visually see the problem and work with me. This software has been put to great use because my buddy also has access to edit the JamBoard and show her problem-solving. Previously, I have had tutors who gave me independent time to solve problems. I would ask them for assistance if needed. This tutoring method was better and more efficient once I got into high school. Younger kids like my buddy are visual learners and are better learners eye-to-eye. Additionally, examples using real-life examples led to a better understanding for my buddy.

Moving forward, being a tutor for P2P has allowed me to practice communication skills. As I plan on being an International Business major in college, I need to be a public speaker. I have yet to commit to a college yet, but it is beyond beneficial to be practicing these skills. All business majors require some basics to teaching and being able to present your ideas clearly to other people. Tutoring the main core subjects has also allowed me to recall my memory and suggest shortcuts that I found helpful. My buddy usually brings her subject books to sessions rather than school homework. Explaining answers and making sure my buddy understood was another skill I practiced. It may be difficult for younger students to understand textbook answers, so explaining the different ways of getting to an answer was necessary. For subjects like math, one could solve a question differently than another. It is a matter of preference, and there is no right or wrong answer when the solutions are the same.