

2023 Fall P2P Short Essay

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What was a challenging moment during your time as a helper? How did you overcome this challenge, and what did you learn from it?

Oftentimes, good intentions don't have immediate positive effects. No matter how much benevolence one devotes into his or her actions, one is prone to be put in a situation where he or she must be patient for a substantial amount of time before seeing the results of the goodwill. Although social skills, time management and the ability to have responsibility for my work are all valuable assets I was able to accrue through my experiences of serving as a helper in the P2P program, I can definitively say that the most meaningful outcome of my tutoring is patience. Though the means of obtaining that milestone was not the easiest journey ever, it did bestow me a crucial lesson that would change the way I tackled not only the problem between my buddy and me but also all other problems I was to confront in the future.

The reason for my exasperations was present in not only my buddy but it also lied inside of me. Once every two weeks, my buddy would fail to show up in the scheduled session time. I would wait for him in the meeting alone, for over 15 minutes but he didn't show up most of the time. I can't say I wasn't irritated by the unannounced tardy or absence. However, I came to understand that he was only 10 years old. I had overestimated the capabilities of an elementary school since I had set myself as the standard for his behaviors. As I started to acknowledge the fact that he is not as good at managing time as I was, the annoyance inside me turned into a feeling of responsibility for me to guide this kid to the right path. He was asking me for aid for his Korean homework, but I thought it was as important for me to help him with other skills that would be necessary when faring in his life. The change in my perspectives stigmatized me to conceive solutions, and I started to remind my buddy of the session more often so that he doesn't forget the scheduled meeting, and gave him other tips pertaining to keeping track of his schedule. Although it was a slow practice and no drastic change was observable, I felt like I was gradually inculcating an important lesson to my buddy.

The results weren't too surprising; as I expected, he started coming to sessions more often, and we were able to have more of our quality time. What could have just ended up as mutual exasperation soon made our circumstances much better. Both my buddy and I were able to see great improvements in the fields we wanted to work on: math and Korean for my buddy, and the ability to teach and guide others for me. I can certify that patience is not the easiest characteristic you can hone. However, once you have it embedded in yourself, the way you perceive the problems that occur around you and your demeanor towards them does indeed metamorphosize.