

As a P2P helper, there are a lot of challenges, especially considering that we helpers are not experts at teaching, but instead trying to focus on helping the best we can within our limits. As a P2P helper for now consecutively 3 semesters, a challenge that I seem to face every time has the buddy under control. I value the teacher's authority very importantly, if the teacher is too nice or somewhat makes the buddy think that he or she has control over the helper, the class loses its direction, and it always digresses. As a helper who doesn't really like to have a clear line between the relationship of buddy and helper, I always try to treat him or her as my friend, so not only am I comfortable, but the buddy is too, which allows them to ask questions and interact freely. However, it is always the beginning when the buddy feels so comfortable that he or she doesn't really listen to me. Now that can be a really huge problem especially since it is through zoom. If a buddy doesn't want to do their work for some reason, I have no other option but to keep reminding them to do it, which is hard when you lose control. So every time I meet a new buddy, my primary goal is to find a clear boundary which although the buddy feels comfortable, doesn't violate the line of where the buddy can listen to me if I order a task to do.

Another challenge that I realized that are crucial to helpers, not just me, but other as well is preparation. In my case, I am currently a junior, so I have a lot of things to consider other than this program, so it is already hard for me to make time to tutor, for 2 hours this semester since I was assigned to two buddies. However, I believe that preparation is also a task that you must do if you are a helper since it is my responsibility to prepare for the best class I can have. I overcome this challenge by always preparing before the session start, so I don't really have to make too much time, but I just know a brief schedule of how the session works throughout.

Although there are a lot of challenges as helpers other than the two mentioned, I also learned a lot through these obstacles. For instance, I learned how to time-manage by managing both this program and my academic work, and I also learned how to interact more with others that I am not really close with, to ultimately becoming really close. These lessons are hard to earn, and since my dream is to become a professor and teach students, I value this experience greatly. It is true that these challenges did make me somewhat hard and suffer just a bit, but I believe that these will only make me stronger. Hence, this program gives challenges, but it also provides with the necessity of what you must have as a helper.