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Humans of the Learning Center

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Rationale for an Instagram Page

Melanie Taylor

Instagram is a primarily visual medium that allows text to accompany the user's image if he or she so chooses. The saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" embodies Instagram's platform and demonstrates its unique attributes. Pictures seem to reach a larger audience at a quicker speed as opposed to traditional essays or even other long writings. Because they do not require literacy in order to be impactful, pictures can spread ideas even faster. Keeping this in consideration, I decided Instagram would be the most advantageous multi-literacy platform for my project. The *Humans of New York* account inspired me to create an Instagram account for the Learning Center that shows the humanity of its tutors. Too often tutors are confined to the image of a para-professional that must adhere to concrete, and potentially intimidating, institutional practices. Unfortunately, this stigma dehumanizes the very human essence of the tutor-tutee interaction and creates an unnecessary and unwelcomed gap between two otherwise ordinary peers. In order to shave down this barrier, I wanted a medium that was primarily visual with short text narratives or quotes to convey the concept that tutors are also college students just like tutees. Taking direct quotes or short narrative from real tutors in the Learning Center will hopefully showing the public and potential tutees that tutors are also just humans, not simply cogs in the college machine. By doing this, hopefully we can limit the anxiety that tutees are susceptible to while being tutored and even encourage new tutees to get to know the humans that are the tutors of PSU's Learning Center.

<https://instagram.com/humansofpsulearncentr/>