

# Tutors: A Site for Multiliteracies About Tutoring

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## Dear Tutor

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**Dear Tutor**

By Lisa Bisso

I'm a freshman in college, this is a new start for me  
I must prove myself and make friends, a loser I won't be  
So I thought classes would be easy, but that's exactly what they're not  
English 101 is really starting to get me, my grades are absolutely shot  
I heard there are writing tutors on campus and I think that's kind of cool  
But I'd rather let my grades suffer than be the kid who needs help in school  
Especially in college, I'd be one of the laughing stocks  
"I saw you in the learning center, what's next, you gonna start wearing crocks?"  
So I'll sit back and just let English take its toll  
My future is in jeopardy, but at least my popularity won't be in the hole  
-Freshman

Dear Freshman,

I know a lot of people feel very similar to you  
Hell, when I was a freshman I thought the Learning Center was a place for losers too  
Then my friends started going and I told them I was too cool  
They said too cool for what? A successful future? You sound like a fool  
So I made an extremely important decision that day  
To create a future I'd be proud of, and just get a tutor for my damn essay  
Eventually I realized we're lucky to have this great Learning Center around  
The tutors are students just like us, opportunities abound  
The irony in all of this is now I'm a writing tutor in the center as well  
So I beg you to take that extra step, don't put yourself through this hell  
-Tutor

Dear Tutor,

Your thoughts to me ended up hitting home  
I've realized that my future is ahead of me, it's time to get in the zone  
So I went to the Learning Center that you've spoken fondly of  
Everyone greeted me kindly, you could tell there was a lot of love  
I made my appointment for English 101 and couldn't wait to go back  
But what happened next wasn't good at all, now I'm entirely off track  
I must kindly say I will not be going back to the Learning Center where you tutor  
I should've taken this into my own hands, I would've rather had the help of a computer  
Thank you for your attempts to be of assistance  
I appreciate it, but from now on I plan to keep my distance  
-Freshman

Dear Freshman,

Wait! We've made a huge improvement on your thoughts in even such a short time  
I wish you would tell me what happened so I can make an attempt to change your mind  
I'm sure you've been told that first impressions are often wrong  
If I thought the Learning Center was the wrong place to go, I would've suggested something else  
all along  
If anything horrible happened then perhaps I can try to make it right  
After all the good you have heard about writing tutors, I think it would only be polite  
-Tutor

Dear Tutor,

You're more than right in this situation, I'm sorry for being incredibly rude  
After my first visit with a tutor, my opinion of the writing tutors are a bit skewed  
Perhaps it was just a bad day where everything went terribly wrong  
I know if all tutors operated this way, the Learning Center reviews wouldn't be so strong  
I waited for my tutor for over ten minutes when I arrived right on time  
He pranced in like it was no big deal and hadn't committed one single crime  
As a result, I became annoyed right from the start  
But I understand these things happen, so I didn't take it straight to heart  
We went to the table, and the tutor didn't introduce himself  
I felt like I was a bystander sitting aside on a shelf  
So, first he asked me what teacher I have for English 101  
When I told him, he started bad mouthing the professor, and I sat there stunned  
Then I told him about the assignment I brought and I wanted help with grammar  
He said he wasn't there to help with just that, and I was so upset I started to stammer  
Next I was told to read my paper aloud  
But I have anxiety with reading for people, I feel like I'm in front of a crowd  
While I was reading, he decided to look at his phone  
It was something I considered so rude, a phone should have never been shown  
After that mess the tutor gave me advice I wouldn't use and ripped my paper apart  
I can't tell you how much I felt like the furthest thing from smart  
So the last thing that happened was probably the worst,  
I included in the paper that I didn't believe in gay marriage, and my tutor just about burst  
He said how many people I will offend and that I shouldn't write about it  
But it's what I believe, how can I help that? I decided it was time to quit  
So I hope you can understand where I'm coming from now,  
And perhaps you know why I must tell the learning center 'ciao'  
-Freshman

Dear Freshman,

Wow first I must apologize to you that sounds awfully terrible  
I'm sure, especially for a first time tutee, that experience was unbearable  
I will start by saying I'll make no excuses for this student  
The majority of what he did was wrong and there's always room for improvement  
The tutors are told to arrive fifteen minutes in advance  
I'm sorry he was late, I'm sure it made our Learning Center seem terrible at first glance  
In addition, they're supposed to say hello right away  
I feel bad that it appeared like your tutor looked at the session with great dismay  
What makes me the most upset is the professor was talked down upon  
In our training we are told it's imperative not to do that, and shouldn't be foregone  
Furthermore, it is never appropriate to have your phone out at a job  
The tutors usually follow this well, but I'm sure it seemed like he was a big snob  
As for the rest of the things that happened, I must take time and explain  
There are things we writing tutors do that are meant to help you and not cause you pain  
The purpose is to make you a better writer in general and not just focus on grammar  
Although most tutees don't know this, so I understand your desire to make a clamor  
There are grammar tutors you can request in the Learning Center if you'd like  
They'll help you improve your grammar just like learning to ride a bike  
Moving back on topic to address the tutoring session you had  
The tutor asking you to read aloud was so you could find mistakes, a tactic not meant to make  
you mad  
So I suggest if you ever decide to go back  
Tell the tutor you'd rather they read, so you don't feel under attack  
As for the gay marriage dispute that you two had  
Some people feel strongly, especially about that issue I may add  
The tutor should have probably handled it in a different way  
But may I suggest going to a different tutor next time, there's usually not many problems over a  
tutee's essay  
Your tutor should've explained all of this to you, and usually they do  
But like I said, we all have bad days, it's just a fact that's utterly true  
I hope this response helps you and convinces you to go back and try again  
I promise the tutors are great, you may even make a good friend  
-Tutor

Dear Tutor,

I am extremely thankful you took the time to explain all of this  
Having the chance to be tutored in ENG101 is an opportunity I don't want to dismiss  
So I took your advice and gave the Learning Center a second chance  
My writing skills need improvement, and I had to take a stance  
This writing tutor was amazing, she arrived right on time  
And she helped me in every way, everything turned out to be just fine  
We talked first about my major and what my goals were for writing  
I told her I want to improve my grammar too, and her reaction was quite exciting  
There was a nice blend of correcting grammar and reorganizing the structure of my essay  
I was given advice on how to improve as a writer, this tutor had a great message to convey  
She didn't even ask me to read my paper aloud, she just did it herself  
It wasn't like my first session, I was no longer the bystander aside on a shelf  
I now have a standing appointment with her and can't wait to go back  
I really think I'm becoming a better writer, there were skills I definitely lacked  
Thanks for your time and patience with me, I'm ecstatic I took your advice  
Who knows, maybe I'll be a writing tutor someday too, I've begun to think twice  
-Freshman