

Tutoring Tales

November/December 2025



MEET MENTOR: MATEEN

A **junior** at George Mason University, majoring in **Government & International Politics** and minoring in Data Analysis.

Can you describe your experience as a mentor tutor?

Being a mentor tutor has been an incredible experience. I've had the opportunity to work closely with other tutors and see firsthand how guidance and support can make a real difference. Sharing ideas, strategies, and best practices with my mentees has been equally valuable as learning from their unique approaches and perspectives. Even as a mentor, I continue to grow and learn from the tutors every single day. The community we've built is truly inspiring, and it's been amazing to watch others develop confidence and succeed. I'm deeply grateful to be part of such a supportive and dedicated team, from the tutors to the program staff.

How do you feel you are helping current tutors? Can you provide an example?

I feel I am helping current tutors by making them feel less anxious about starting. Many new tutors feel nervous about whether they're explaining things the "right" way or if they're doing enough to help their students. I try to remind them that tutoring isn't about perfection; it's about creating a safe space for tutees to learn and building meaningful connections with them. For example, I recently talked with a tutor who felt lost when it came to planning their lesson, and it made them nervous to start tutoring. When giving advice to the tutor, I made sure to emphasize the point of being the tutee's support in the learning process, and not to stress over creating flawless lesson plans. I even shared some relatable stories of being anxious before starting my first sessions. After the conversation, they felt much more confident and prepared. By sharing my own experiences and challenges, I help tutors see that it's normal to feel unsure at first, and that confidence comes with time and practice. I've noticed that once tutors feel more relaxed, their sessions become more natural and effective. Seeing that is one of the most rewarding parts of mentoring.



“Mentoring has completely changed the way I view learning and teaching.”

How has mentoring helped you become a better learner? How has it helped with becoming a better tutor?

Mentoring has completely changed the way I view learning and teaching. I used to believe that there was always one correct answer or one best way to approach a problem. Through mentoring, I've learned that there are often many correct answers and many different paths to understanding. The way I structure my lessons might differ from how a mentee approaches theirs, but both methods can lead to the same success. This has helped me become a better tutor, as I now integrate flexibility in my lessons. I meet students where they are and adjust my approach to fit their unique learning styles, not the other way around. It's made me more patient, empathetic, and intentional in the way I help others.

We'd love to hear from you!

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MEET MENTOR: KAYLA

A **junior** at George Mason University,
majoring in **Forensic Psychology**

Can you describe your experience as a mentor tutor?

Being able to serve as a mentor tutor has provided me with so much experience and growth in my academic and teaching abilities. I have been able to gain confidence in myself and my leadership skills to become a role model for other students. I have learned about the importance of effective communication and creating positive relationships with my students. I also value the time I have to collaborate and work alongside other mentors to discuss our experiences and provide the best support to new tutors. I am grateful to be able to share my own stories and advice and be a helpful resource.

How do you feel you are helping current tutors? Can you provide an example?

I have been able to help my tutors plan lessons, facilitate self-regulated learning (SRL) activities during sessions, and reflect on their student's progress over the course of the year. Helping the current tutors goes beyond just talking about the material being taught in the lesson. One of our roles as a mentor is to make sure the tutor's lessons align with their learning objectives set in the beginning of the year. The students should be taught material that is respectful to their grade level and addresses their individual academic strengths and weaknesses. As a mentor I also prioritize the tutor's feelings, making sure they feel comfortable and confident with their student and the subjects that will be covered. I always strive to maintain a safe environment for the tutors to share their emotions and opinions and provide effective feedback to encourage them and problem solve.



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I am always learning new ways to improve my own tutoring skills under the guidance of other educators and seeing new perspectives from my peers.

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How has mentoring helped you become a better learner? How has it helped with becoming a better tutor?

Mentoring has helped me become a better learner by having time to work with many different tutors who offer unique ideas, approaches, and skills. This has also helped me become a better tutor myself by learning how to attune to others who may have certain learning needs or preferences. The tutors educate me on obstacles that they have worked to overcome, such as language barriers or teaching students with a disability or learning disorder. I am always learning new ways to improve my own tutoring skills under the guidance of other educators and seeing new perspectives from my peers.

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MEET TUTOR: COLLIN

A **sophomore** at George Mason University,
majoring in **Business Accounting**.

Can you describe your experience as a tutor?

A little stressful but rewarding and exciting to be helping kids develop good habits.

How has your tutoring helped students master the content and become independent learners?

He had definitely made progress and we are still working together to build those good habits. But mastering independent learning skills isn't a 5 minute how-to video.

In what ways has the T2T program helped you become a better learner?

It's helped me recognize my own learning process and independent learning skills.



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The program helped me recognize my own learning process and independent learning skills.

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What has been your favorite part of tutoring?

There's something really special when the kid you're tutoring starts to get the hang of things. I was tutored myself when I was younger and I know the feeling of finally feeling like everything just clicks together.

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MEET TUTOR: DANIEL

A **senior** at George Mason University, majoring in **Psychology** with a clinical concentration.

Can you describe your experience as a tutor?

My tutoring experience so far has been great. I'm not used to tutoring through an online platform, but I am certainly more confident about doing so now than when I started. The amount of support I have received regarding what to do/teach and how has been great as well, and I have sincerely enjoyed getting to meet and work with my tutee. Also, the experience has given me more confidence in my abilities to give and explain instructions, plan tutoring sessions, find and utilize academic resources, and think on the fly.

How has your tutoring helped students master the content and become independent learners?

I have primarily focused on walking my tutee through approaching and addressing the content we have covered. In other words, I have tried to help them understand the content, what to look for in a math problem or reading comprehension question, why an answer is correct or incorrect, and how to adjust their approaches and self perceptions for the better. One strategy I have used to foster these things in my tutee is encouraging them to do the best they can to share their thought processes and reactions. So far, this appears to have helped my tutee become a little more comfortable with communicating and self-reflection during sessions, and over time these skills will help in further building their confidence and academic abilities.

What has been your favorite part of tutoring?

So far, my favorite part of tutoring has been talking with my tutee. Through icebreaker activities and helping them work through lessons, I am learning more about them and am able to share a little about myself each time. I love helping others, and I can't tell for certain whether what I say each session sticks with my tutee, but I have hope that my instructions, questions, and feedback are at least somewhat helpful. I also enjoy meeting and learning about other people, and in doing so I come to better appreciate them and want to do my best for them.



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The experience has given me more confidence in my abilities to give and explain instructions, plan tutoring sessions, find and utilize academic resources, and think on the fly.

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In what ways has the T2T program helped you become a better learner?

The T2T program has helped me become a better learner in two main ways: it has taught me a lot about how to tutor and why certain tutoring methods are effective, and it has given me a “hands-on” experience with which to apply that knowledge. I have realized that there are a lot of aspects common to classes I had in high school and earlier in college that I didn't pay much attention to before, and in pointing these out, the program has revealed to me more about how I learn best and what educational tools I find most helpful. In the context of the tutoring sessions, I have also realized that I tend to default to explaining things to my tutee in the ways I prefer to learn; being aware of that has not only taught me more about myself, but how and where I can improve my knowledge and skills as both tutor and student as well.

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