

### Assignment 3 | Tutoring Self-Observation

Last semester, you began our 329 class by observing other tutors and ended the semester by developing your own tutoring philosophy. For this assignment, you will record (with permission from your tutee) one of the tutorials you do while working in the Writing Center and observe yourself. You will watch your recording back and reflect on how your real tutoring practices (e.g., what you say to tutees, what kinds of questions you ask, resources you consult, activities you try together, etc.) align with, extend, or challenge your tutoring philosophy. This will thus require you to revisit and revise the philosophies you wrote last semester, which is something we have been doing all semester.

Your final paper should identify specific practices you've done, analyze how your practices are informed by the writing center theory we've read, and reflect on how these practices inform your tutoring philosophy. Questions to consider when writing up the self-observation include:

- What tutoring strategies did you employ in this session that you think are essential to how you carry out the work of tutoring writing?
  - Focusing on specific moments, why did you use certain practices or strategies?
  - What did they accomplish? How did the tutee respond?
  - Would you have done anything differently if you had the chance?
- What can you learn from this particular instance of tutoring?
  - What does this tutorial show about your values and commitments as a tutor?
  - What questions does this session raise about your approach to tutoring?
  - What questions does this session raise about tutoring writing in our Writing Center, for institutions like UMass, or for the field more broadly?
  - What continued goals do you have for tutoring next year?

To thoughtfully respond to these questions, you will need to draw on specific moments by including short, transcribed examples of dialogue or even stills from the recording that exemplify embodied practices you use. You need not walk through every moment of the session in great detail, but you should contextualize the particular moments you dwell on in the larger conversation you had with this writer. In your paper, you should also contextualize this self-observation in at least three readings we have done in either the 329 or the 298 classes.

#### Requirements and Due Dates:

- The final paper should be 5-7 double-spaced pages
- We will do peer review on a draft, outline, or free-write of your self-observation in class on April 28. This means that you should have recorded your session by this date.
- The final draft of the self-observation is due during finals week, on Moodle by 11:59 PM on May 9.