

# Additional Strategies for Tutors Developing Long-Term Relationships with ESL Students in Writing Centers

## 1. Help Build up their Self-Confidence

Many ESL Students do not feel as confident in their English or Writing Skills. Tutors should be encouraging and not critical. If a student makes a mistake, a tutor should reassure the student that they are on the right track while pointing out the mistake. A tutor should not make an ESL student feel like their work is inferior, but offer encouraging advice.

## 2. Identify short-term and long-term goals for students

When working with ESL Students over a long period of time, it is important that the tutors and the students identify goals they would like to work on during the sessions. They should also identify goals that can be met in future tutorial sessions as they continue to meet up.

## 3. Encourage ESL Students to express their ideas

Many ESL Students have great ideas; however, they have a hard time expressing these ideas in English and thus believe that their ideas are inferior. Thus a tutor should encourage these students by having these students explain their ideas to a tutor. A tutor will then find ways to help students express their ideas onto paper.

## 4. Establish a rapport when meeting with an ESL student

It is important to find ways to make international students feel comfortable when they enter the Writing Lab. Some students might feel intimidated during a session; thus tutors should find a way to engage with students. This will help an ESL Student feel more relaxed.

## 5. Be aware that different ESL Students will struggle with different grammar issues and tutors should help them identify these different types of grammar issues

ESL Students struggle a lot with grammar; however, ESL students struggle with different grammar issues like subject verb agreement and verb tense. Tutors should help identify what types of recurring grammar mistakes students make so the student can look for these grammar mistakes in the future.

## 6. Refer ESL Students to the many ESL resources out there like the Purdue OWL.

There are many good ESL resources out there and tutors should use these resources during a session. These sources should be recommended to students so students can practice more before they meet up with the tutor the next time.

## Works Cited

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