



First Semester & Second Semester

- The first time I came to ESOL I was nervous, and I met Gayle, the teacher of the lower level class. She assigned me to work with a lady who spoke no English, absolutely no English. My first thought was, "oh gosh, this is going to be harder than I thought." So here I was in a room with this lady who spoke no English, and I hadn't practiced my Spanish since I took the A.P. Spanish test the semester before. But by the end of the night I had taught her how to write her name. The first semester consisted of me taking students aside who needed a lot more help than the others. But closer to the second semester a lot of the people who I had helped individually stopped coming to class, and I mostly just participated in class. Once the weather got nicer, many of the students got jobs and could no longer come to class. Second semester was a bit more comfortable, because I had been there for so long now. The relationships I have gained with the people were great by the end. Some of the students from Vietnam had even brought me back some things from their trip back to Vietnam for a wedding
 - My day at the ESOL class would usually consist of watching the students try to get through a cross word puzzle and help them with directions on the beginning of class papers. Gayle and I like to talk (when the students don't have questions) about things that are going on daily. Then the students put the answers on the board and Gayle and I ask them to repeat the words and we correct their pronunciation. I go up to the board and draw pictures of the vocabulary the students aren't sure about. We have another activity which usually consists of communication. Then at the end of class we play a game to help the students remember their newest vocabulary. I got to use my Spanish many times during volunteering. My personable skills made the students feel comfortable in class, and my ability to do some translating for some of the people made it slightly easier for the students. They were very appreciative whenever I'd help them with pronunciation and vocabulary meaning.
 - This organization is very important to me because it gives hard working immigrants a chance to learn the language to better themselves. I really couldn't imagine going through life in America speaking little to no English. ESOL classes provide an opportunity for these people to get better jobs, teach their children English, or better understand their English speaking kids and family. Communication is really important to me as it should be to everyone, but dealing with Spanish speaking people, I wanted to use my knowledge of the language to help others learn English.
 - Although I always had an inkling I wanted to go to college to further my knowledge and vocabulary in the Spanish language, I know now after seeing and meeting many people who do not speak English, that being able to translate for people is a necessity in America. This is why, along with my medical area of study I want to minor in Spanish. I want to be able to translate for those who speak Spanish in the hospital. ESOL has shown me that in this area there are people from all over the world, and once I get to college I would actually love to pick up a second, possibly a third language, or at least learn the basics.
 - The people I have worked with at ESOL have been nothing but encouraging and admirable. They have a lot of respect for me, and so do the students. My students really give me positive feedback, and we learn a lot from one another
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