

Of the extra-curricular activities, personal activities or work experiences you have described, which has meant the most to you and why?

The experience that meant the most to me is being a mentor at Shau Kei Wan East Government School during the summer in 2006. It was a voluntary community service. My job was to tutor English classes of 20 students who scored the lowest within their forms and I had been assigned a class of Form 4, Form 2 and Form 1 respectively. Need more impact, too descriptive. Your essay reader is from the US, so, take out details that he won't be able to understand, such as Shau Kei Wan East Government Schl, Form... Explain why the experience is meaningful – did these students teach you something?

Through this experience, I managed to prove myself and help others by not giving up. “not giving up”? but it's only a summer volunteer experience after all... The Form 4 class students were uncomplicated because they clearly understand the objective of staying in school for the summer was to improve their English. Don't talk about Form 4 class if it brings no meaningful experience On the contrary, the other 2 classes behaved very differently. Need impact, how different? Condense the impact in one sentence. I could still clearly remember how naughty the Form 1 students of my first class were. They refused to talk in English and some even told me to shut up on the first day. It was my fault that I had not done well on preparing the given materials. I was blaming myself the whole time that I should have done better preparation. The feeling was very miserable since no one was listening. I was so depressed that I wanted to run out of the classroom in the middle of the lesson. Once the class was finished, I review the situation again. I realized that I should change my teaching style. I should not feed them knowledge like their teachers did in their English lessons. I should arouse their interests in English so that they would take the initiative to learn it. The next day in class, instead of explaining to them all the vocabularies on the list assigned by the school, I gave them ten minutes to memorize twenty words every day Then, we played different games such as hangman and pictionary. Instead of asking them to read out loud some childish stories, we sit in a circle and chatting about their school life to brush up their oral English. As the times went by, their attitude in class changed for better. They became willing to talk in English and enjoyed the activities in class. This paragraph is good though need some craftsmanship. It is good in the sense that it talked about your transformation. Make it more condense, relate to experience that you gained. Also, need to be careful with the paragraphing. For example, describing the hardship could be a paragraph and impact being the other.

Gradually, I realized that they didn't want to speak in English because they didn't (don't use short form, say did not) have the confidence to do so in front of a complete stranger. A trusting relationship (learning how to develop a trusting relationship with different people is good learning experience, may consider

using this as theme of essay) was developed among us and it really brought me the sense of satisfaction when they started to respect me as a mentor. It was my pleasure seeing their eyes “lit up” when they understood something new or showed great interests in what I was talking about. At the end of the program, 18 out of the 20 students (sounds very small scale, how about making it sound 90%) managed to pass the same test they took on the first day which all of them failed. People doesn't have to know the final exam is the same as the one the students took in the first day of class

I was happy that I was able to show them that English lesson can be fun and they can improve their English if they are willing to try. I learnt that patience and understanding is very important when communicating with someone. And, I should keep thinking of alternative solutions to overcome the challenges I encounter. At the same time, this tutoring experience had also taught me the correct attitude to face challenges. (face challenge this doesn't seem to be very appropriate in the ending. If you were to use this tutoring experience as a life changing experience and teach you how to face challenge, you got to elaborate how would you handle challenge before and after the tutoring experiences. Nevertheless, it is not convincing that after 1 summer, you acquire the attitude in facing challenges.)

After reading the essay, I am still not sure why the experience is meaningful? You learnt to be patient? You improved the students' English? You “proved” yourself? You learnt to communicate with different people then develop a trusting relationship?