

## LEARNING CENTER ENGLISH TUTORING LAB HANDOUT

### TUTORING AS EMPOWERMENT

#### Developing a student's power

##### Characteristics of effective tutoring

##### Motivates

- Encourages and supports students' initiative in seeking success
- Points out successes, progress
- Recognizes that we can guide students to discover their own abilities
- Praises and provides feedback to students; displays enthusiasm for subject; makes it fun; shows how far they have come—shows progress over time

##### Involves student in active learning:

- Encourages student participation
- Engages in two-way communication, not top-down directives.
- This two-way communication is a subtle and important issue because in most other learning environments students are passive.
- Encourages students to do the writing and thinking; tutor structures activities so students do the work
- Directs student toward independence. The more the student does, the more he believes he can do.

##### Fosters independence

- Enables students to learn or master a skill so that eventually they can work without a tutor.
- Tutors himself out of a job! Students get to a point at which they no longer need a tutor.
- Brings students to recognize the value of being independent and taking responsibility for their own learning as the outcome of the tutoring process
- Guides students to become better, to teach themselves, to be confident
- Provides methods, fosters self-sufficiency

#### Models

##### The helpless model

- tutor is viewed as an all-knowing authority on the subject

- student is viewed as the helpless figure, totally dependent on the tutor
- one way flow of knowledge/information from tutor to student

#### Empowering Model

- student takes as much responsibility as possible for own learning
- tutor provides the tools, perhaps guidance, for learning
- tutor uses the collaborative approach with two way exchange of ideas
- student is participant in collaboration, optimistic about learning, open, takes responsibility for expressing his/her own ideas
- student takes responsibility for own learning
- tutor is viewed role model and peer, demonstrating obtainable goals

#### Summary Notes

- Do not take away empowerment; do not let student leave responsibility for
- Learning; learning should be student's responsibility
- Tutor there to provide tools for learning
- Tutor provides a supportive environment

#### Comparison of helpless vs. empowerment model

##### Helpless model

Student is helpless

Tutor is all knowing authority on the subject

Student depends on tutor to diagnose problems - one way flow of knowledge

Tutor does work or displays his/her work; student not encouraged to think on own

Student remains dependent and dependency is reinforced

No connection between sessions; endless cycle of student returning for session, no progress

##### Empowering model

Tutor patiently waits as student is encouraged to think on his/her own

Collaborative effort: tutor does not assume to know everything

Two way exchange of information

Tutor points out student's own ideas and gives student credit for own thoughts

Emphasis on methods & approaches rather than correcting single errors

Student increases skills from session, upward spiral of progress

Student continues to doubt can do  
work independently

Student sees how to proceed on her  
own

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