

HEALTHY TUTOR-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

Boundaries prevent tutor burnout and help avoid awkward situations

STUDENT and TUTOR EXPECTATIONS

- 2-hours per week commitment
- Regular day and time each week
- On-time arrival (may need to talk about U.S. time vs. foreign time)
- Sufficient notification if unable to meet or if going to be late (day before if missing class; as soon as possible if you will be late)
- Public meeting location

POSSIBLE ISSUES

- Transportation to tutoring sessions
- Not a good match—felt either by the student or the tutor
- Inappropriate topics (politics, religion, and sex)
- Insensitivity to each other's culture; asking questions that may make a student or tutor uncomfortable

REMEMBER

- Yours is a professional relationship with your student; you are not their friend. (It may later grow into a friendship but you are not obligated to be friends.)
- You are not obligated to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Listen to your body. If you feel a little clenching in your stomach, it probably means it doesn't feel right to you.
- You are an English tutor, not a social worker. You can help your student find resources, maybe even use that as a lesson, but you are not obligated to provide those services.
- Check-in regularly with your student to get their opinion about how they think the sessions are going.
- Always check with the Literacy Office about anything you are not sure of. They have information about resources available.

Helpful website: <http://www.essentiallifefskills.net/personalboundaries.html>