How was your learning assistant experience?

NS101/102: Science of Nature I/II
Spring 2016

What was the most rewarding moment you had as an LA in recitations?

- When one of the students told me that he understood the concept and thanked me
- When they come and beg me to be their LA :)
- When I managed to get the least interested student on the table to work and ask a question.
- When they come and beg me to be their LA :)  
- When I led them there outside recitation hours
- When they figured something out on their own after I led them there

What were the challenges of being an LA?

- Trying to cope with issues related to plagiarism.
- Dealing with different personalities, and ages.
- Making the student interested in the topic.
- Motivating students who have never taken science before.
- Dealing with different personalities, and ages.
- When they don't ask questions when they don't understand or hesitate to show it.

What did you learn from your LA experience?

- That it feels good to help someone learn a certain topic.
- Every student is different from the other and therefore needs a different kind of style to learn and be taught.
- A lot, too much to be said
- The learning never ends...
- Being patient
- How educational methods can be improved.
- Never to give up
- Being patient

Which skills did you improve this semester?

- Speech in front of a group.
- Teaching and communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Personal time management
- Studying systematically
- Patience
- Empathy
- Persistence
- Gaining confidence of students
- Simplifying concepts
- Communication

Any advice for future LAs?

- When in doubt, check your lecture notes.
- Teach with enjoyment.
- Be confident and approachable
- Don't look like you are forced to be there, make them believe that you want to help
- Be certain about your job's border. Just help them enough not less not more.
- Don't give up when the students don't understand the subject.
- Do not let shyness hinder students' curiosity.
- If you are asked any kind of hard question, don't get panicked. Ask the MTA for help.
- Take nothing personally - even disrespect
- No matter how exhausted and unmotivated you might feel, in almost all cases know that will be students who actually care and really want to take advantage of your scientific knowledge.
- Always be curious about the learning objectives

In what ways being an LA contributed to your academic and social life?

- As I knew how the system worked I was able to study more efficiently for my other classes
- I knew more students, so I was famous in the campus lol
- I got to know a lot of new people from different academic backgrounds within the university.
- I become more confident in my speeches or presentations. Department members are more sensitive when you've such duty.
- Learning the subject better
- A taste of what happens behind the scenes
- Being able to do more empathy and being more understanding to other lecture 's TAs/LAS.

Contributed LAs

- Cem Alptürk
- Beste Boydak
- Ezaldeen Abbas, aka Izo
- Mahrukh Usmani
- Ozlem Çankaya
- Fatemah Haji
- Basem Atiq
- Iskilen Topçu
- Zgjim Brina
- Ali Nagaria
- Aisha Shamim
- Murooj Ghanem
- Gulsum Can
- Serra Ozari
- Irem Efe

Contribution of the Department Members to your Learning Assistant Experience:

- Communication
- Simplifying concepts
- Leadership skills
- Learning to work with some students who don't ever want to be helped.
- Working with some students who do not ever want to be interested in science.
- How to take control despite little authority
- Managing two sessions one after the other, which makes it 4 hours.
- Trying to cope with issues related to plagiarism.
- Make students feel comfortable
- Teach with enjoyment
- Be confident and approachable
- Don't look like you are forced to be there, make them believe that you want to help
- Be certain about your job's border. Just help them enough not less not more.
- Don't give up when the students don't understand the subject.
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