Tutor4Me

Project Proposal

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**Abstract**

Tutor4Me is an online platform associated with the nonprofit organization Tutoring 4 Change that connects tutors and students (or parents of students). Tutor4Me places each tutor at the head of their own business. Each tutor associated with our website will create their own profile, choose their own wage rate, track their tutoring sessions and hours, and raise charity funds for sponsor children simply by having a tutoring session. A student or parent using our service will be greeted by a friendly search engine that will help them find the best tutor to meet their needs and budget. All payments will go through Tutor4Me so students and parents can focus on what’s important when the tutor arrives.

**Customer**

There are three types of “customers” though two are associated or even the same in some cases, this is limited to: Tutors that will be using the platform for a small per hour worked surcharge; Students that will be using the service to connect to tutors, pay for the services, confirm sessions and write reviews/feedback on tutors; Parents who will have some functionality over the Student(s) associated as their Child(ren).

**Competitive Analysis**

The large competitor in the Tri-Cities area is tutor.bc.ca. Tutor4Me differs in the following ways: it does not make tutors charge a fixed rate, in fact they are at a rate based on their skill and experience level; it helps the student choose the best tutor for themselves that works with their respective schedule; it allows tutors to come and go with little overhead; it supports local community by raising charity funds. Tutor4Me embodies the concept of competition by allowing tutors to choose the best way to advertise themselves on their profile and by letting tutors adjust rates to whatever maximizes their take-home pay. Meanwhile, students or parents can easily choose the most suited tutor that meets their conditions and also fits their budget. Tutor4Me maximizes tutor visibility such that it is more efficient to post one well-crafted “advertisement” to our website than it is to post hundreds of flyers and still not have the same market coverage.

**User Stories**

**Parent:**

As a Parent, when I go on to the website, I can choose a tutor that best meets the needs of my child(ren). Once a tutor has been chosen and he/she has accepted my request, we set up a time and place to meet to have a consultation. After that, tutoring sessions are held at a place and during the time we all agree on. Since my child(ren) are still too young to use the web application, I receive a notification asking me to confirm that each tutoring session has been held to ensure we do not get over- or undercharged; I also receive notifications for upcoming sessions as reminders. Additionally, I can track my child(ren)’s progress, as well as rate and file complaints for the tutor anonymously.

**Tutor:**

As a Tutor, I can choose my wage rate based on my skill level and years of experience, available time interval, subjects and grade levels to tutor, and upload the information in one posting to the website. When I get a request from students or their parents, we discuss and set up tutoring schedules. As I continue to tutor the student, I can check my tutoring hours on the website to ensure that the correct amount of pay has been transferred to my bank account; I also receive notification reminders for upcoming tutoring sessions. If there are any problems regarding payroll, I can contact the Admin, Student or the Parent.

**Student:**

As a Student, I can choose a tutor that’s best qualified for my tutoring needs and still meets my budget. Once the tutor I’ve chosen has accepted my request, we set up a time and place to meet for our tutoring sessions that work for both of us. I get reminding notifications from the website for upcoming sessions and confirmations for the previous session, to ensure I won’t over- or underpay.

**Admin:**

As an Admin, I oversee all activities for the clients (Students and Parents) and Tutors to ensure all is going smoothly, such as ensuring the pay is the same for both the client and their corresponding tutor. Should that happen, I will be contacted by either the client or Tutor, and I will go over all the tutoring sessions that took place with both parties separately through e-mail or phone to investigate the issue. I, as an Admin, can also create an account for a new Tutor once they’re hired, as well as disabling the account should the tutor quit, or uses his/her profile inappropriately. The web application also allows me as an Admin to view the database and keep track of all the clients and Tutors.