

METACOGNITION

*Getting past sweeping judgements (the binary of good/bad)
Giving yourself more specific feedback and a reality check*

- Describe, in detail, someone you admire (for qualities relevant to tutoring).
- Describe, in detail, someone who you think would be an *awful* tutor. How would you explain to them what they're doing wrong?
- What are your favorite metaphors for tutoring? Think about the origin or derivation of these metaphors; what else do they imply?
- If all your assessments come from yourself, would it help to anchor them in something (e.g., someone else's impression, or feedback from a writer)? What could you look to as an external indicator of success?

OWNERSHIP

Clarifying external standards and choosing whether (or to what extent) you should make them your own

- Where are you getting your cues from about what is 'good' tutoring? Why have you chosen this as a benchmark?
- Where (or who) does the pressure to be a 'good tutor' come from? What are the penalties for being a 'bad tutor'?
- Describe how you want to feel when you finish a session.
- Scenario: the writer walks away at the end of a session, clearly disappointed in you. Under what terms would you be OK with this outcome?

POWERLESSNESS

Some things feel like they're out of your hands

- Are there external constraints and pressures that make you feel trapped and overwhelmed as a tutor, issues that you can't possibly address in a session?
- Do you feel like you have fixed personality traits or personal characteristics that work against you as a tutor? Have you been underestimated/disrespected by writers, maybe frequently and for the same reason (e.g. you're not a native speaker, you're an undergraduate, you're quiet, etc.)?

BOREDOM

You're a tutoring machine!

- What are your routines as a tutor? (e.g., what do the first few moments of every session look like?) Map them out, and identify a few places where you could feasibly try something else.
- Is there a difference between 'comfort' routines and 'bored' routines? What is it? How would you rate your own routines?

BAGGAGE

*Tutoring brings up rough stuff
Other parts of your life follow you into sessions*

- Does tutoring remind you of other (difficult, unpleasant, stressful) experiences? How conscious are these associations (is this the first time you've spelled them out)? How accurate are these associations?

ENVIRONMENT

You've been focused on mental and emotional factors but it's actually environmental factors that hinder your tutoring

- Under what conditions are you at your best, mentally and emotionally? Do you regularly lack those conditions during tutor sessions?
- Are you comfortable in the environment at the writing center? Are there distractions?

ONE BIG STEP

*Something has you disproportionately paralyzed
Jump off the deep end, bite the bullet, confront your fears*

- What are you most afraid of hearing from someone (writer, admin, tutor, teacher ...)? What's the worst case scenario? Play it out in your head!
- What's something you've tried to do as a tutor and feel that you totally failed at? What were the consequences or repercussions?
- Think of a risk you'd like to take in your tutoring. What would make you feel safe enough to take it?

REFLECTION

Mining past experience for clues and resources

- How have you improved as a tutor? What's changed during your time here? Does this provide any clues for how you can continue developing?
- How are you documenting your development over time?

FOCUS

*You have ideas and ambitions but they never happen!
There's too much on your plate*

- What is your most pressing question right now as a tutor? Who would you like to pose it to? What do you think they might say?
- Scenario: you have a terrible session. Immediately afterwards, what should you do?
- Is there *one* thing you can do as a tutor that would take no more than *ten minutes*, something that you could turn into a weekly habit?