

Cultivating Voice: A Writing Tutor's Craft

The Evergreen State College, Writing Center

Our Second Writing Invitation: My Tutoring Philosophy

In this essay, I ask you to share your beliefs and values about tutoring. What informs your desired practice? What seems primal and primary to the sacred work of tutoring? How must a connection between writer and tutor become? What are your essentials that you carry within you when you sit at one of the Formica tables to engage with a writer? What are the verbs that motivate and drive tutoring? What are the metaphors?

The speculative fiction that emerges into knowledge that transforms into manifesto is an interesting marker to create early in the journey of becoming a writing tutor. In fall 2006, the Evergreen Writing Center debuted *Inkwell: A Student Guide to Writing at Evergreen*. The lead article, Victoria Larkin's "Tutoring as a Radical Act: Changing the World One by One," was begun two years earlier when Larkin completed her version of the "My Tutoring Philosophy" assignment in the 2004 version of *Cultivating Voice*. Her essay so powerfully examined and articulated the philosophy of tutoring in Evergreen's Writing Center *before she had ever tutored* that I asked her to consider revising her essay for the inaugural issue of *Inkwell*. I continue to offer this exercise in humility to all writers in *Cultivating Voice* while you are in the process of developing your voice as a tutor.

Your essay is part personal discovery and part manifesto/a. You can write/present it in any form that best allows you to articulate your philosophy, your cultivated tutor voice.

Drafts will be due throughout the quarter (see syllabus). For this writing invitation, you are most certainly encouraged to meet with a current writing tutor or someone in the class as part of the practicum. The most current iteration of your writing journey, including all notes, drafts, musings, art, and self-reflections, will be due as part of your portfolio at the end of the quarter.