Tutors: what you need to know about remote tutoring

We are all in a new and uncharted situation. You’re not only moving to online tutoring, you’re moving to online tutoring during a stressful global crisis that is affecting you in all sorts of ways. Please to be kind to yourselves and to each other. We will try some things that will work well, and some things that will not work so well. Maintaining our growth mindsets and having empathy are going to be key to help us get through this, together!

You already know how to be a good tutor! Keep up the great work.

There are a few things to keep in mind when you are tutoring remotely that will help make your tutoring sessions as successful as ever:

1. Active Learning Still Matters
   Even online (especially online!), keep track of who’s “holding the pencil” in your tutoring sessions. How can you ask students questions to truly engage with their learning, instead of just telling them answers?

2. This Is Hard (part 1)
   Some members of the Cornell Community may be experiencing much harder times than others. This is a new situation for all of us. Remember to be patient with your tutees, your supervisor, and your fellow tutors.

3. Resources May Be an Issue
   Don’t make assumptions about what kind of access your tutees and fellow tutors have to resources such as a quiet space to work or high-quality technology.

4. Connection is Important
   Now more than ever peer tutoring is an important time for students to connect. Especially at first, please use some of your tutoring time just to check in with your students and your fellow tutors. “How’s it going?” can go a long way.

5. This Is Hard (part 2)
   Expect technological mishaps, missteps, and mistakes. These things will happen. Some aspects of online tutoring will get easier with practice, and some things are completely out of your control. It’s ok!

6. Ask for Help
   Don’t feel like you need to solve problems on your own. Your fellow tutors, your supervisor, and the LSC are here for you. Remember, ask for help when you need it!

See Cornell’s COVID-19 updates page for useful updates and information.