preparing for your tutoring sessions

By: Noel Hennessey
THINK TANK Graduate Assistant

Students have said that they understand their classes better when working one-on-one with a tutor, and that tutors help them master skills that they will need to succeed in the rest of their classes. At the THINK TANK, tutoring sessions vary by length. So a drop-in 15-minute session might look and feel much different from a 30-minute writing appointment or hour-long one-on-one appointment. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of your session.

Know your time limits. Determine how much you can get done in 15 minutes, 30 minutes, or one hour, and prioritize work where you need the most support.

Start your homework on your own and identify problems that are difficult for you. Starting homework beforehand helps you identify what concepts you already know and what concepts tend to trip you up. This helps the tutor build off your strengths and focus the session where you need it most.

Have the writing prompt and assignment details with you. When working with a writing, math or science tutor, your tutor can give you much better direction and advice if they have the assignment details, rubric, instructor comments from drafts or meetings to reference.

Not all instructors are looking for the same aspects in a writing piece or assignment, so bringing the prompt and instructions are a good way to assure that your work with the tutor is focused and productive.

Bring the textbook and class notes. Bring everything! Especially for hour-long appointments where you might finish your homework. Bringing course materials like books, notes, instructions, and charged laptop will give you more opportunities to practice and plan ahead with your tutor.

Come well-fed, hydrated, and ready to learn. It's never easy to learn and practice new concepts if your stomach, phone, or Twitter feed is distracting you. Get the most out of your time with your tutor by coming in ready to ask questions and work on homework.

Students across majors have found that THINK TANK helped improve their understanding of different topics and improved the quality of their work when they came prepared for drop-in tutoring. We hope to see you soon!