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**I believe in you and your ability to succeed. Together, we can do this!**



**7/15/18**

**Private Tutoring Expert Mary Wanser: Choose Safety, Comfort, and Convenience**

**Q:** Is it necessary that I meet with my tutor in person?

**A:** In modern society, meeting for in-person sessions is no longer necessary. I work with clients from all over the world via Skype. Using this free forum, we can see each other, hear each other, view the same screen together, exchange documents, and use a whiteboard. The only thing we cannot do is shake hands!

The Internet allows students to learn from the safety and comfort of home rather than a public location. During the rare times that the Internet is down, a variety of options on cell phones makes for an effective temporary alternative. Consider the convenience of working via Internet and phone, like not having to drive from one location to another for every appointment. Some tutors do make house calls, but there are issues to consider for both sides: the spread of germs if one is ill, the discomfort of allergies due to pet dander, and the distracting presence of other family members are a few examples.

Opting for Internet-based sessions also opens your options for choosing a tutor. You are not limited to your geographic area. An exception would be if a student needs a tutor's help constructing a model of some sort, or a similar activity that would be impossible to address if not together in person.

Safety, comfort, and convenience are only a few of the many benefits to choosing online tutoring sessions rather than in-person ones. Contact me today to get started!

7/22/18

### **Private Tutoring Expert Mary Wanser: College Prep Tutoring**

**Q:** Should I hire a private tutor for my high school student as he prepares for college?

**A:** Many high school students, though excited, are unnerved by the college preparation process. There are standardized exams to study for, at least one application essay to write, and an academic résumé to create in order to stay ahead of the competition. These tasks can seem overwhelming to students already pressured by school assignments and extra-curricular activities, which is why summer break between semesters, or during other school holidays, is an ideal time to tend to them. Having a private tutor who'll guide and assist can ease the load, and hiring the right one can be just what a student needs to propel him toward success. I'd be happy to be that one for your child!

Under my tutelage, students don't carry labels. Each comes to me with a clean slate. I hold no preconceived judgments about his or her abilities, regardless of parents' reports on various diagnoses. I come to know each one's individual learning style, and I adapt to it. I have yet to come across a student who has been un-teachable. It's a matter of finding a point of relation, a connection between personal interests and academia that makes sense to the student.

When searching for that connection, I ask questions. For example, if my student is a football player, I ask if he would show up on the field of a big game not having trained ahead of time, not having consulted with his coach, not having had a scrimmage on a grass turf. Invariably, the answer is, "No." "Well," I explain, "showing up for a college interview is a similar scenario." If you want to win, you must prepare. It's the same for dancers. I ask them if they'd stand behind a rising curtain without having stretched, warmed up, and learned the routine. "Of course not," they tell me. "Entering the campus is not much different from entering the stage," I point out. Students *get* this kind of talk!

Yes, hiring a private tutor can prove to be an invaluable investment as your high school student prepares for college. Contact me today to get started on the path to success!

7/29/18

### **Private Tutoring Expert Mary Wanser: Preparing for Standardized Exams**

**Q:** What's the best way to prepare for a standardized exam?

**A:** Preparing for a standardized exam is multi-faceted, and I take students through a fourfold, rather unconventional approach that touches on expectations, content, pacing, and self.

Expectations

Knowing what to expect minimizes anxiety. A student needs to become familiar ahead of time with the layout of his exam. How many questions? What sections? How much time will be allotted? Are the questions presented in a particular order? A test prep tutor like me will do that research prior to the first scheduled session.

Content

Learning the concepts being tested is imperative. Many students make the mistake of believing that repeatedly answering sample questions will increase their test-day scores. This is

not the most prudent way to prepare for a standardized exam. Practicing ineffective habits will not yield effective results. Problem areas need to be pinpointed, incorrect answer choices explained, and the academic concepts that underlie the most troublesome questions learned. This work of a test prep tutor like me is invaluable!

## Pacing

Practicing under the pressure of time constraints is necessary. It's not until after a student can consistently reach his target score without regard to time that I suggest working on pacing. At first, when attempting practice questions with the timer running, it is common to see a student's percentages decrease. This imbalance usually stabilizes within a few days to a couple of weeks as the student gets used to what the allotted time feels like. An intuitive knowing of the difference between rushing and lingering develops. A test prep tutor will time the student until he is able to time himself.

## Self

A fourth aspect to my standardized test prep approach focuses on the mental and physical states of the individual who is preparing for the exam. I evaluate a student's learning style and, together, we devise a method of approach to support that according to the particular exam being taken.

The E-C-P-S fourfold approach I've developed is the best way to prepare for a standardized exam. Contact me today to get started! HSPT, ACT, SAT, and TEAS are my specialties.

**8/5/18**

## **Private Tutoring Expert Mary Wanser: It's Not Only for Students**

**Q:** Is private tutoring meant only for students?

**A:** Although the term "private tutoring" may conjure thoughts of school-age children, private tutoring is actually a wise investment for folks of all ages. My clients have ranged in age from five to sixty-five. And my services are not exclusively for students. When thinking about "tutoring," consider it coaching, consulting, advising, assisting, mentoring. As an English and writing specialist, my private sessions fall under all these categories.

Consider private tutoring if you are a business professional. Rely on me to help you develop and edit effective written content for your website or other promotional material.

Consider private tutoring if you're a writer (established or aspiring). Whether you're working on an anthology of short stories and need help recognizing a common theme, thinking about writing a memoir and not certain where to begin, or grasping for the appropriate tone of a poem, I can help you with these issues: clarifying your direction, finding your voice, gaining new perspectives, generating fresh ideas, managing your time, overcoming writer's block, releasing debilitating fears, remaining focused & motivated, editing your work, and so much more!

As a formally trained writer in academic, creative, and technical styles, I can help you through a wide array of tasks and offer ongoing support, too. You may contact me at any stage of your writing process—from creation to presentation and all the phases in between.

**8/12/18**

**Private Tutoring Expert Mary Wanser: Private Sessions vs. Group Sessions**

**Q:** Is private tutoring more effective than group tutoring?

**A:** Learning is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. Choosing between a private one-to-one tutoring session instead of a group session depends on the student's temperament and preference.

Some students are shy and feel more comfortable blending in to a crowd rather than standing out. They are happy to sit back and absorb content delivered without actively contributing to the topics covered. They find benefit in classmates' questions that often reflect their own. One downside to group tutoring is that, sometimes, advanced students are stymied while others are left behind.

For some students, private sessions are more effective. There are students who require individualized attention without the distraction of others. They like the privilege of interjecting at any time during the session to ask a question or request clarification, knowing they are not interrupting an entire group. They feel less inhibited to discuss troublesome spots in their learning because no classmates are present to witness foibles. In private tutoring sessions, each lesson can be tailored to target the areas the single student struggles with most, and the tutor can adapt to that student's particular learning style rather than taking a generalized approach that must accommodate a majority. For some folks, a downside to private tutoring is that it is usually more expensive than group sessions. It's important, however, not to make your decision based only on price, which is a short-term factor when considering overall educational goals.

If you decide you prefer the individualized attention offered by private tutoring sessions, contact me today to book your first appointment. I look forward to working with you soon!