



Cara Tuzzolino

Writing Tutor and Adjunct Writing Instructor



I am a full-time writing tutor and a part-time writing instructor

How long have you been a writing tutor?

I taught English to Speakers of Other Languages for 13 years before switching to full-time writing tutoring.

Where do you currently work?

Nassau Community College (Long Island, NY)

How do you spend most of your time at work?

- 1) Helping English language learners improve their writing
- 2) Teaching grammar workshops
- 3) Ensuring the ESL students have access to campus services

Why did you choose this career?

I've always loved languages and knew I'd eventually become a teacher (after an initial career in journalism). I volunteered in an ESL program when I was working in publishing and it was like a light bulb went off--ah ha! I went to graduate school for TESOL. I later took coursework in teaching writing to ESL students and found the ideal fit.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I received an MA and then an Ed.M. in TESOL, plus three semesters of student teaching in a community-based program.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Helping students move towards their academic and professional goals

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Students' lack of understanding the differences between high school and college

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Travel the world, experience other cultures and definitely study another language. You will feel what it's like to be a second language learner and struggle with acquiring another language.

CARA'S FUN FACT

My favorite song is "Don't Stop Believing" by the rock band Journey.

