

From The Tutor: Important Advice On Getting The Most From Your Tutoring Session

I am an expert tutor in math and science. You're paying a lot for my time. How can you get the most out of it? One part of the answer is simple enough: make sure that you get prepared for the session before I show up. This article will give you a Get Ready Checklist to help you get value from every minute of our session.

Tutoring is very much a shared responsibility. As the tutor, I have preparations I have to make before we get together. Here are the things YOU need to take care of ahead of time.

1 – Equipment

Have all of these things ready to go:

- paper
- pencils
- calculator, if needed

It takes at least 2 or 3 minutes to run back and forth in your house to gather simple equipment. My clock is running! Let's sit down and get started.

2 – Class Materials

Be sure to collect these items also:

- textbook and/or other reference material
- list of current homework problems
- relevant class handouts and notes
- current study guide or practice test (if any)

I care passionately about you and your success, but remember that I work with a number of different students on various subjects during the week. Set out ALL of the books and papers from your class – even OLD stuff can help me be quicker and better and help assure that YOU move forward in learning right NOW.

3 – Recently Graded Papers

The first things we should look at, even before today's assignment, are a graded:

- test
- quiz
- homework assignment



If I take a detailed look with you *NOW* at questions that stumped you on a quiz, it's a good bet this will help solidify your understanding of the subject. This will also help us figure out what your teacher is looking for on tests, and I will be able to use that understanding in the way I guide your preparation work.

4 – Questions

If we are going to be working through a current homework assignment, make sure that **YOU** try some of the problems yourself first and **WRITE DOWN** questions that occur to you as you do.

If we are reviewing for a quiz or test, be sure that you are clear about what subject matter will be covered. If you have a practice test available, you should try as much of it as you can on your own before we meet.

5 – Challenges

A very important step in your preparation is to ask yourself the question, “What in this class has given me the most trouble since my last tutoring session?” (If this is the first session, ask, “What in this class has given me the most trouble in the past week?”), and expect me to ask you this question when we begin our session.

