

Volunteer observation

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For my required volunteering hours, I decided to volunteer at SOUND learning in Shelton, WA. It is a program that assists immigrant populations in learning basic English language skills. The work I did ranged from group work assisting my supervisor to one on one lessons with more advanced students, reading from stories and helping with english skills that were a bit more advanced. After around 40 hours of helping (3 to 4 hours a week) I can say with confidence that teaching is the career path I wish to take.

By far the most rewarding aspect of the volunteering was seeing how far the students I helped grew both in their language skills and confidence. The first few weeks I was volunteering, the students struggled and were a bit shy with the work. However, by the end, many of the students who had just months ago struggled with even basic greetings, were confidently interpreting basic stories and having simple conversations both with me and one another. I think the work was incredibly rewarding and seeing how much progress people can make in a short time with the right help is awesome.

Another aspect that was really amazing was how much it helped me. In taking on this volunteer opportunity I became more confident working with people. I was a bit nervous at the beginning. I didn't really know how much help I could be to these students. However, those worries quickly faded and I found myself doing a lot better than I expected. Overall, I would say volunteering helped me as much as it helped the students. I had such an amazing time helping them and honing my interpersonal communication skills and even my public speaking skills.

Overall, this opportunity was amazing. It really cemented my passion for this area of work. It made me a more confident person and really makes me excited to become a teacher.