

UC Personal Insight Question Essay — Seizing an Opportunity

The first time a new peer tutoring program was announced in my school, only a small number of students registered. This was not so because of any lack of necessity; the program was just untested and unstructured. Having noticed this gap, I realized that there is not only an opportunity to be involved, but to create something valuable.

I was one of the first tutors to volunteer and soon realized that not all students were having an issue because of not being able to, but rather because of a lack of confidence. I did not go through the assignments; I started to design brief problem-solving tasks that would focus on how to reason and not what I needed to find as a solution. I prepared practice materials, held small group discussions before the examination, and asked students to discuss ideas using their own words. With increased attendance, I would also join teachers in coordinating our sessions with classroom learning.

This gave me the lesson that opportunity needs initiative. Nobody had requested me to redesign the program, but I perceived the possible impact and took some action. The most satisfying part was when a student who used to skip math started volunteering to solve the problems on the board. That transition was not just a difference of better grades but the development of confidence and self-belief.

This opportunity changed my perception of leadership. I came to understand that significant change may have very humble beginnings, due to the consistent work and compassion. It has also enhanced my communication skills and affirmed my interest in teamwork and problem-solving cultures.

I will continue with this mentality: when a chance arises, even a faulty one, I am ready to intervene, accept responsibility, and develop it. College will provide so many opportunities to

interact, serve, and lead, and I am prepared to take everyone with the same initiative and intent that characterized this experience.