

HOW WAS YOUR LEARNING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE?

NS101/102: Science of Nature I/II

Spring 2016

What was the most rewarding moment you had as an LA in recitations?

- When one of the students told me that he understood the concept and thanked me
- When they come and beg me to be their LA :)
- When I managed to get the least interested student on the table to work and ask a question.
- When they said they got the all concepts, key terms and able to answer all questions, by that way they become motivated and become interested about the topic. They become more cheerful and we are able to have nice discussions about the concept, when recitations ends I feel very satisfied.
- When i was approached by a student for extra help outside recitation hours
- When they figured something out on their own after I led them there

How would you define your LA experience in one word?

- Lovely
- Fun
- Satisfactory
- Challenging
- Encouraging
- Rewarding
- Educative
- Instructive
- Interactive
- Extraordinary

What I hear, I forget

What I see, I remember

What I do, I understand

ACTIVE LEARNING



Contributed LAs

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Any advice for future LAs?

- When in doubt, check your lecture notes.
- Teach with enjoyment.
- Be confident and approachable
- Don't look like you are forced to be there, make them believe that you want to help
- Be certain about your job's border. Just help them enough not less not more.
- Don't give up when the students don't understand the subject.
- Do not let shyness hinder students' curiosity.
- If you are asked any kind of hard question, don't get panicked. Ask the MTA for help.
- Take nothing personally - even disrespect
- No matter how exhausted and unmotivated you might feel, in almost all cases know that there will be students who actually care and really want to take advantage of your scientific knowledge.
- Always be curious about the learning objectives

What were the challenges of being an LA?

- Making the student interested in the topic.
- Motivating students who have never taken science before.
- Dealing with different personalities, and ages.
- When they don't ask questions when they don't understand or hesitate to show it.
- Dealing with students the same age as me
- Try to keep students awake
- Trying to be cheerful when I was exhausted
- Keeping myself motivated
- Working with some students who do not ever want to be interested in science.
- How to take control despite little authority
- Managing two sessions one after the other, which makes it 4 hours.
- Trying to cope with issues related to plagiarism.

In what ways being an LA contributed to your academic and social life?

- As I knew how the system worked I was able to study more efficiently for my other classes
- I knew more students, so I was famous in the campus lol
- I got to know a lot of new people from different academic backgrounds within the university.
- I become more confident in my speeches or presentations. Department members are more sensitive when you've such duty.
- Learning the subject better
- A taste of what happens behind the scenes
- Being able to do more empathy and being more understanding to other lecture's TAs/LAs.

What did you learn from your LA experience?

- That it feels good to help someone learn a certain topic.
- Every student is different from the other and therefore needs a different kind of style to learn and be taught.
- A lot, too much to be said
- The learning never ends..
- Being patient
- How educational methods can be improved.
- Never to give up
- Being patient

Which skills did you improve this semester?

- Speech in front of a group.
- Teaching and communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Personal time management
- Studying systematically
- Patience
- Empathy
- Persistence
- Gaining confidence of students
- Simplifying concepts
- Communication