



The Tufts Literacy Corps  
The America Reads/Counts Program at Tufts University

# The Tufts Literacy Corps

## Journal Keeping

Writing about your work with children is a terrific way to deepen your understanding of your student, yourself as a teacher, and the process of tutoring. Journal writing will compel you to integrate the information you gain from articles and readings into your tutoring. It will also help you focus on aspects of tutoring that are particularly interesting or troublesome, and generate solutions to problems that may arise.

Journal writing can also help you build an understanding of how your work with the TLC fits into the broader scope of your life. What are the values that brought you to work with children this year? How do they relate to your goals for the future and your understanding of what you want to do with your life?

Each journal entry should cover one tutoring week (two sessions, if you do two a week; otherwise, one session). In the first part (The Sessions), please provide a quick overview of the week. Describe what you did and why, think about whether or not your plans were effective, and explain what you will be doing the following week.

After covering your session, please feel free to take off and “reflect.” Did anything grab your attention or make you want to understand something about your tutee (or yourself) more thoroughly? Use the writing space to figure it out. Did your tutee say something funny or interesting? Describe it! Anything about tutoring, children, education, growing up and relationships – and you – is welcome.

**Journal writing and pay:** Like everything else you do with the TLC, this is paid work. The lesson description and tutoring reflection are each considered half an hour of work (so if the overall entry is thoroughly written and thoughtful, it earns an hour. If the reflection is dashed off and does not involve any kind of thought, you are paid for half an hour. (That means that if you really don't

have something to say, wait until you do). If you get involved in the reflection and take longer, let me know. The general framework for each entry is outlined below.

## **I. Reflecting on the Week's Tutoring Sessions**

What did you and your tutee do this week?

Why did you do it?

Did your plan work? How did the child respond? Is it teaching your student what you want her to learn?

What's the plan for your next session?

## **II. Reflecting on Your Tutoring Experience**

Please write freely about anything you believe is important to this experience.