

Senior Corps Work Plan SAMPLE

Work Plan Name: ESL – Sample 2 (RSVP)	Work Plan ID: IAC06076
Issue Area: Education	Total # Stations: 1
Service Category: ESL	Total # Volunteers: 10
<p>Community Need: Pinewood College welcomes adult learners of all backgrounds and ages. However, one of the requirements for admissions is a minimum passing score in the TOEFL English proficiency test. For those students who do not pass this test, Pinewood College offers a nine-week summer ESL (English as a Second Language) course so they may improve skills, pass the test, and meet this admission requirement for a future semester. To increase the percentage of students who improve their English language ability and, ideally, go on to reapply to college, Pinewood is looking into new ways to boost both skills and confidence. To that end, Pinewood has asked RSVP to provide English-speaking volunteers to meet with these students outside the classroom, and help them practice their English conversational skills. Research shows that new language learners who are exposed on a regular basis to real situations where they must “think on their feet” and use the second language learn faster than those who use only printed or recorded materials (<i>Second Language Learning Styles and Teaching Methods</i>, Language Learning Institute, 2002).</p>	
<p>Service Activity: RSVP volunteers will meet one-on-one with an assigned ESL summer session student every week for nine weeks for at least one hour per week. Of the expected 40 students who enroll in the summer ESL session, the 20 students who scored lowest on the TOEFL test will be asked to partner with a volunteer for extra practice. The first meeting will have each student lead his or her RSVP volunteer on a tour of the Pinewood College campus. Thereafter, meetings will take place at various spots in Pinewood City recommended by the ESL teacher such as a coffee shop, library, park, museum, and other locations of interest where students must communicate with English-speaking staff. The RSVP volunteer and student will converse about various topics such as: work, family, school, personal experiences, travel, news events, etc. RSVP volunteers will provide friendly assistance and support. These shared conversational experiences will provide the students with opportunities to practice and apply classroom lessons in typical social settings.</p>	
<p>Anticipated Input: Ten RSVP volunteers will meet individually with 20 ESL students (two students per volunteer), for 1-1.5 hours per student per week for nine weeks, for a total of approximately 180 volunteer hours (at least 18 hours per volunteer). RSVP staff and a Pinewood College ESL instructor will provide one initial 4-hour training session. The volunteers will receive a manual, the result of a collaborative effort by RSVP staff and the ESL instructor, which lists activities that would be appropriate for the conversation meetings and suggestions for assisting ESL students in conversation (alternative wording, rephrasing, slower more definitely pronounced words, etc.). There will also be one follow-up training session during the fourth week lasting two hours.</p>	

Pinewood College will oversee the program, including administering the TOEFL test and matching RSVP volunteers and students, and an ESL teacher will be available for consultation meetings upon request.

Anticipated Accomplishments/Outputs: ESL students will receive weekly one-on-one conversation sessions with RSVP volunteers over nine weeks.

Indicator: Number of ESL students who meet individually with an RSVP volunteer; number of hours of meetings

Target: 20 Pinewood ESL students will meet weekly for one-on-one conversation practice with RSVP volunteers over the nine-week period, for at least nine hours of meetings total per student.

How Measured: *Volunteer Log*

Anticipated Intermediate Impact/Outcome: ESL students will improve their ability to understand spoken English.

Indicators: Percentage of students who show an improvement (pre- to post- course) in the Listening Comprehension section of the TOEFL English proficiency test.

Target: 70% of the students who partnered with an RSVP volunteer will show at least a 7 point increase in the “Listening Comprehension” section of the TOEFL English proficiency scores in a pre-post TOEFL test score comparison.

How measured: *TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)*, completed at the end of the 9-week course and compared to original (pre-course) TOEFL scores.

Anticipated End Impact/Outcome: ESL students will report increased confidence in English language conversational skills.

Indicators: Percentage of students who: (1) indicate increased confidence in English speaking ability (e.g., ability to understand spoken English, speak English and be understood, ask questions and initiate conversation in English) and (2) attribute increased confidence to time spent with RSVP partner.

Target: 70% of the students who partnered with an RSVP volunteer will indicate increased confidence in their English language skills (3 out of 5 aspects) and attribute this success to their work with an RSVP conversation partner.

How Measured: *ESL Student Survey*, administered at the end of the 9-week course.