

SAMPLE PEER BUDDY SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

Being a peer buddy provides a chance for students with and without disabilities to work together in inclusive educational settings. Being a peer buddy increases access for students with disabilities to both the general curriculum and to all of the activities of a typical high school student. Additionally, being a peer buddy encourages positive social interactions and social relationships to develop between students with and without disabilities. The peer buddy class is a “hybrid” class meaning that much of the information will be delivered online at _____ (website).

At the end of this course, you will:

- Further learn to treat everyone, disability or not, equally and with respect.
- Have possibly made a friend for life. This may be an opportunity for new friendships for you as well – be open to it!
- Become a better role model both to students with disabilities and other students.
- Have a better understanding of the importance of confidentiality, or privacy, especially in the special education program.
- Become a better advocate, or supporter, of people with disabilities.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Grading Policies:

Daily Participation (25%). Peer Tutoring is not a class in which the work can be “made up” or done outside of class. This is a class where your attendance and attitude count. Because almost all of your work is done during class with the students you help to support, most of your grade will be determined from that daily work, activities, and class discussions. You will receive a daily participation grade ranging from 0 to 5 based on your attendance, participation, and attitude during class. Relax, be yourself, and let a natural friendship be created with your peer.

Assignments (50%). Class assignments will be provided through the Kentucky Peer Buddy Website, found at _____(website). The breakdown of the website is as follows:

(list order)

Each unit has an introductory page, six to eight pages of reading, and a set of activities that need to be completed. The activities are boxed for clarity. The activity grades will count as the unit grades. The layout of the website is to allow each peer buddy to work at his/her own pace through the modules and the activities.

Final Activity (15%). After the units are completed, each peer buddy will be expected to complete a final activity. You will need to get approval from your teacher for the topic of your activity. Once you have decided on the topic of that activity, your teacher will work with you to develop a grading rubric for the activity. All activities must be completed and turned in the week before exams begin. A list of recommended activities is included on the Kentucky Peer Buddy web site at _____(link).

Observations (5%). Each peer buddy will be observed by the teacher twice during the class. The total number of points possible for the observations is 12 (5 points per observation plus 2 optional bonus points). You will be shown the observation form during training but observation dates will not be shared with you prior to their occurrence, so you must be prepared at all times. The teacher will be looking for overall participation and attitude while working with the student (see the “daily participation” section). After the observation occurs, the teacher will review with you the results of the observation. The activities that will be observed will be scored by a U (unsatisfactory), S (satisfactory), or E (excellent). The grading scale will be as follows:

10-11 E's= 5 points + 1 bonus point

7-9 E's = 5 points

4- 6 E's = 3 points

1 - 3 E's = 1 point

Journals. Each peer buddy will be responsible for keeping a running journal. You will be asked to make an entry at the very least, every Friday and to turn the journal in to your teacher on Monday mornings. The purpose of the journal is for you to be able to express feelings, whether they be joy, fear, or frustration, and to have the opportunity to ask questions. The journal also enables your teacher to keep up with your progress as a peer tutor. Each weekly journal entry will be scored 1 to 5 points. The points will be rewarded depending on the effort and thought put into your journal. The journal will be kept private and will only be viewed by you and the teacher, unless the teacher is concerned about any harmful situation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

As a peer buddy, as in any relationship, you might learn sensitive information about the individual's life, past history, and disability. This information must be kept confidential, or private. Information learned about your peer buddy must not be shared with others, with the exception of one of the following:

1. The individual is a danger to him/herself,
2. The individual is a danger to others, or
3. The individual is suspected to be a victim of abuse.

If you suspect any of these, talk with your teacher immediately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are several things that you must keep up with for the peer buddy class. It is recommended that you have a separate binder to keep everything organized and in one place.

We will go over this information in detail during the class. Please keep up with your documents and with your grade. If you have questions, your teacher is available to consult.

Use this experience as an opportunity to learn, grown, and build new relationships. Enjoy the experience!

By signing this syllabus, you agree that you have read and understand what is expected of you as a peer buddy.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____