

AVID was not what I expected it to be. I thought it was going to be a lot more academic and tutor-focused. A few days into the program, I realized that the program was going in a different direction. I would start by asking the students if they had anything that they needed help with. Almost every single student would say no and the occasional student would need help with algebra which I didn't know how to do. The best thing that I got out of AVID was learning how to manage conversations with high schoolers. I talked with students about music, food, video games, and more trying to create a bond. A few of the students wanted to share things that were not appropriate to discuss with teachers and that was interesting to navigate. I also got to practice some high school classroom management. The students swore a lot and that's not something that personally bothers me as a teacher but I knew it was against many school policies and I thought it would be good practice to attempt to manage it. I tried to gently remind them that I am not the audience to talk like that around. This worked with some of the students but one student in particular swore a lot and did not show signs of stopping anytime soon. I think that AVID should either be explained to tutors as more of a bonding opportunity or the program should have more guidelines for the students so they actually seek academic help instead of just playing on their phones. I felt like although I bonded with some students, I only helped a few students with academic-related issues. I did answer a lot of questions about standardized testing and college for a student. Although this program wasn't exactly as I expected, I appreciated the experience of working with high school aged students.