

*I just started graduate school in Human Development at WSU this week, and I have a great story I want to share with you! And before I start I just want to say thanks again for writing me a letter of recommendation for the program—you must have said some great things because here I am!*

*To give you a little background, I was assigned to be a TA for a course in Family Policy, which in the Human Development major is an important senior capstone course and fulfills a “Writing in the Major” requirement for the university. As part of the course, the students write four papers, which they compile at the end into one huge paper that is used by the department to evaluate whether student writing is improving overall from year to year.*

*On the first day of class, the instructor went over all of that, explaining that the course would be very writing intensive and then introduced me as her TA saying, “Janelle worked in a writing center so I had to have her as my TA,” which made me glow a little bit imagining all the faculty fighting over me. But it gets better.*

*That particular instructor is my advisor, so she had the main role in accepting me into the Human Development program last spring. We do share some research interests, so I know she didn’t accept and hire me only because of my experience in a writing center, but after hearing her say that, I am convinced it was a component in her decision. I am one of six graduate students who got into the program, so I imagine there was some competition.*

*Feel free to tell your peer tutors or potential recruits that even if they decide to major in something completely unrelated to English, like Human Development, their tutoring experiencing can come in handy, like in getting them into graduate school and making them valuable to all the faculty they work with. I hope my story is inspiring to all you wonderful writing center people!*

*Janelle R.*