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Community Contribution

In my senior year, my best friend, Gemma, started getting worse and worse grades for her essays. She wasn't the only one: our grading policies became stricter, and roughly a third of my classmates suddenly found themselves lagging behind.

I wasn't among them, however. Always receiving top grades for my essays, whether in history, English, or literature, I weathered the change in grading policies without a dip in my academic performance. Gemma kept asking me, "How do you even manage?" and I would try to explain my approach to her – but we'd always run out of time or get distracted before I could take a proper deep dive into essay writing.

During one of these conversations, Gemma told me, "I wish someone would teach us all that!" And I thought to myself: I could step in. So, with Gemma's help, I got in touch with other classmates who continued to excel at their essays and discussed helping our peers develop their writing skills.

With three more seniors interested in the idea, we launched a student-led writing center. Soon enough, we found ourselves helping our fellow seniors not just with assignments but also with college application essays. After several weeks, teachers even started referring struggling students to our writing center.



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By the end of the year, we helped over a hundred students develop their writing skills and ace their essays. Based on popular demand, we also organized a total of ten writing workshops on topics ranging from writing a knockout personal statement to proofreading and editing.

Helping others overcome challenges and seeing the improvement in their writing first-hand was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. This whole adventure also showed me that sometimes, you may not realize how you can give back to your community until you listen to another person's struggle.