

North Peters

CPIC reflection

This summer I had the opportunity to be a Senior Counselor for the Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program through the Phillips Brooks House. Essentially I was a teacher/counselor for a group of around 10 students that live in Cambridge. In the mornings, I would teach them general education topics such as english, math, science, social studies, current events, etc. Then in the afternoon we would do extracurricular activities such as getting active, doing mindful breathing, going outside, and other fun and engaging activities. This part of the day was particularly hard considering the fact that everything was moved to online through zoom, but we managed to get it to work. I led a classroom of seventh and eighth grade boys and girls. There were many challenges that me and my co-worker faced while teaching this class, most of them due to the virtual setting. Initially, it was very challenging establishing a connection with the students and getting to know them because a lot of them were camera shy, often not even turning their cameras on. Dealing with this along with the majority of them not speaking, made for an interesting situation. But after a while, when they became more comfortable with us, the students started talking and being more receptive to us. Working remotely definitely made it harder to learn compared to if this program had been in person, but I still managed to make the most of the opportunity and am still extremely grateful I got to participate in this amazing experience. This fellowship definitely exceeded my expectations. I was very worried going into this that I wouldn't gain anything valuable, and thankfully, I was very wrong. This was both a fun and rewarding experience. Originally I did not think I would enjoy teaching and this kind of work, but I really did like helping teach and form bonds with these young students. I liked having an impact in their life, and their every day. This was definitely a fun experience.

Thank you so much to the Harvard Club of Southern Connecticut for allowing me to have this experience. I surely grew both as a student and overall as a young man this summer.

Best,

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