

## EMAIL EXCHANGE WITH A MENTOR

From: [rarnold@jmhs.edu](mailto:rarnold@jmhs.edu)

Subject: A little advice?

To: [ablaine@jmhs.edu](mailto:ablaine@jmhs.edu)

Amory,

It's been one of those days. It's 9 p.m. and it's the first time I've sat down all day. I am thinking about all the choices I made, and I could really use your experienced perspective.

Three of my students approached me after English II, each with a different problem/request, and each looking to get more time with me. With all of three minutes to respond to them, I made some quick choices. I'm just not certain they were the right choices.

I had one student see me after class. I told another one, who's got family problems, to direct message me. The third student is also on the debate team, so I decided to coach the team in Shakespearean English. (The team seemed to really get a kick out of it, but Forsooth! that was a lot of work!) I think my choices were fine, but maybe they could have been better?

One student, in particular, could use a lot more help. What are your thoughts on tutoring students in our classes? Can I charge for this? I'm sure my wife would love to see a few extra dollars coming in if I am spending any more time away from our family!

Thanks for listening (reading, really) and for your advice.

Ralph

---

From: [ablaine@jmhs.edu](mailto:ablaine@jmhs.edu)  
To: [rarnold@jmhs.edu](mailto:rarnold@jmhs.edu)  
Subject: Re: A little advice?

Ralph:

Yeah, sounds like quite a day, and yeah, that was pretty typical. Happy to share what I can.

I'm not going to judge whether the way you gave your students help after school was inappropriate, but I will say that it might have looked that way to others. So here's a few thoughts from an old hand about what you could try next time:

- Set some established hours for assistance.
- Try getting the parent's permission, or at least let them know, before you provide additional assistance outside classroom hours. (You could even let parents know when the session is complete.)
- Be visible to others. Leave the door open, lights on, and sit where there is some traffic. (I like the Media Center. No one walks past my classroom after 3 p.m.!)

By the way, there are school system policies, guidelines, and procedures about "interactions with students outside the classroom setting." Read 'em.

You also asked if you could ever charge the kids for tutoring. I don't ever charge my own students. And before I did any tutoring, I'd check the policies and get permission.

Best to the family. See you tomorrow!

- Amory