Preparation is important to a beneficial tutoring session and will help you and your tutor focus on the areas you are having difficulty with and maximize your time together. Here are ten suggestions for making the most of your tutoring session:

1. Prior to the session, review and identify specific areas you are having difficulty with. Start by looking at the broader topics on the syllabus, reviewing past exams, homework, and class notes.

2. Come to the session with specific questions. Because you only have an hour to meet with your tutor, be sure to prioritize your questions and create a list of goals for the session. Come prepared!

3. Bring your textbook, class notes, writing assignments, or any additional materials from class. Your tutor won’t have the course materials available to bring to the appointment.

4. Make sure you have attended class, done the readings, and attempted the homework, even if you are having difficulty with it. Your tutor is here to help you understand the material and work through challenges, not to re-teach the class for you. MSSS tutors are not permitted to do your homework for you, and WRSS tutors are not “paper editors.”

5. Be realistic about what you and your tutor can accomplish in an hour. A WRSS tutor cannot adequately review a ten-page assignment in one hour, nor can a MSSS or Content tutor adequately cover several chapters of material. The goal is to learn a little bit during the session and then take that learning with you and attempt the work yourself.

6. Expect your tutor to actively involve you in the learning process. They will question you and challenge you and guide you through the material. To that end, they will expect you to be an active participant in the learning process.

7. Actively take notes during your tutoring session. You can also take pictures of any work you and your tutor do together on a whiteboard.

8. Don’t be afraid to let the tutor know how you learn. Once a tutor understands your learning style, the tutor can better adjust his or her teaching style to better suit your learning style.

9. Don’t stop studying just because you are seeing a tutor! Tutors are merely a supplement to the learning that takes place inside the classroom and the learning that happens independently on your own! Remember that tutors merely help facilitate the learning process.

10. Make tutoring appointments well in advance of exams and writing project due dates. Remember that learning is a process that takes time. Therefore, waiting until the last minute to receive help will not allow you to prepare properly and retain information.