



Academic Tutoring

# Tutoring Specialist Session Report (De-Identified Sample - #4092)

**Tutoring Specialist Name \*** Daniel Hoffman

**Tutoring Specialist Email Address** [dhoffman@frontiertutoring.com](mailto:dhoffman@frontiertutoring.com)  
(@frontiertutoring.com) \*

**Student Name \*** Rachael S.

**Parent (Responsible Party) Name \*** Vikki S.

**Parent (Responsible Party) Email Address \*** [Excluded to de-identify]

**Date of Session \*** Monday, November 18, 2013

**Length of Session (Hours) \*** 1.0

**Location of Session \*** Frontier Tutoring Office

## Session Remarks \*

In this session Rachael and I went over a few troubling areas in her Trigonometry work.

We started off by working on a system of equations problem that was not working out in her favor. We went through and got the same numbers that weren't "pretty" before we checked back in the book and saw she missed a negative. With that corrected Rachael easily went through and solved the system with much more beautiful numbers.

After that we started working on partial fraction decomposition. The trickiest part here for Rachael was just setting up the fractions to solve later. She somehow had a few bits of information that weren't exactly correct which was most of



## Frontier Tutoring LLC Academic Tutoring – Tutoring Specialist Session Report

the problem. We focused on breaking down the concept to easier bits that she seemed to understand well. After a few challenging problems she was getting most of them set up correctly and even pointed out a mistake I made on one example, so she should be doing well here. I gave her my notes to keep and study so that will also be a great advantage for her for studying purposes later.

After getting the setup figured out we practiced solving for the partial fractions on a few problems. Rachael seemed to grasp the concept here to begin, but she was over-complicating the relatively simple process of the first step. I pointed out how simple it was and that was a great help. After that there is a lot of algebra involving multiplying factors and grouping terms which leads to the standard form of a polynomial. Using this we can equate them to the coefficients of the numerator of the original problem which leads to a system of equations to find the constants.

Rachael did pretty well with the systems of equations, but she seemed to struggle just a little with setting them up. Usually they are given but here she has to form them on her own. Once we did a few examples she got the hang of it and did pretty well.

For possible benefit I tried to explain the method I grew up with which involves much less algebra but more thought. After setting up the partial fractions and multiplying everything by the denominator we get an equation in factored form. By plugging in values of  $x$  that make certain factors equal to zero, we are left usually with just one constant we are looking for is equal to some number. Solve for that constant and repeat the process to make different factors equal to zero and then solve. It is less work in the end, but Rachael preferred the method she has been working on so far, which is understandable.

We had a great session and I feel it helped her a lot. Again, she has my notes and can study them more when she needs to refresh the processes.

It was a pleasure working with Rachael.