Utilizing Undergraduate Student Mentors

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Outline

I. Existing uses of undergraduates as student mentors

II. Benefits and concerns

III. Training
Existing Uses of Undergraduates as Mentors

- Teaching assistants
- Tutors, academic mentors, Writing Center tutors
- Writing fellows
- PLTL leaders, Mentoring leaders
- Other types of mentor positions
  - Peer advisors
  - Residential life programs
Benefits of Using Undergraduates

- Faculty/course benefits
  - We have smart undergraduates who have been through our curriculum
  - Using successful upper-level undergraduates to help lower-level undergraduates (esp. 1st years) transition into the academic environment
  - Additional supplemental help for students in course

- Peer-mentor benefits
  - Obtain leadership skills
  - Increase command of the material
  - Increase own problem solving and writing skills
  - Close relationship with faculty member

- Multiple methods of compensation
Concerns in Using Undergraduates

- Realize undergraduates are not graduate students
- Peer mentors need to be trained
- Peer mentors need supervision and direction
- Peer mentors need continued contact with a faculty member
- There can be peer-to-peer concerns
Structured training available

- Writing fellows - class
- PLTL leaders - class

No Universal structured training for undergraduate TAs