

Tampa, FL

I survived a stroke July 28, 2016, diagnosed with aphasia which affects speech, reading and writing. I'm working very hard on my recovery. I was referred to the USF Speech Department Clinic by my Speech Therapist. It was important to be around like minded people, those with aphasia. Feeling comfortable around "my peoples" gives me a comfort knowing I'm not alone in this journey. The diversity of the staff & students along with the clinic participants is a rich, warm, embracing environment which I look forward to each session and class. We are constantly validated that speech, reading and writing have been affected but intelligence has not.

Thanks to Ms. Cheryl Paul and her army of students, we are in good hands. The students are up to the task with their enthusiasm & energy.

I didn't realize how much these classes mean to me when summer semester ended.

With time on my hands and there I was anticipating the new semester to start.

- Orchid Santiago