

Writing Assistance in the Success Center

Brainstorming, organizing, expanding on ideas, choosing powerful words, choosing correct words, finding relevant sources for research papers, citing those sources correctly . . . Success Center tutors can help.

Come in for help at the early stage of the writing process:

- ✦ discussing the assignment
- ✦ brainstorming
- ✦ developing ideas
- ✦ organizing ideas
- ✦ finding and evaluating sources for research

Come in to check drafts for problem areas:

- ✦ fulfilling the assignment
- ✦ creating interesting introductions
- ✦ writing strong conclusions
- ✦ expanding on main points
- ✦ improving coherence and flow
- ✦ addressing problems with focus
- ✦ finding errors in logic
- ✦ organizing research
- ✦ citing sources correctly

Come in for fine tuning papers:

- ✦ discovering patterns of grammar and punctuation mistakes
- ✦ correcting word choice errors and awkward wording
- ✦ adding transitional words, phrases, and sentences
- ✦ checking for paragraphing

Come in for help with computer usage:

- ✦ using Microsoft Word programs
- ✦ formatting papers
- ✦ using spell and grammar check
- ✦ logging in to Blackboard or online composition Web sites
- ✦ accessing and using library databases and search engines

Come in for special projects:

- ✦ meeting study groups in conference room (includes a white board for notes)
- ✦ working on group presentations and PowerPoints
- ✦ checking out a laptop (for use in Success Center only)

By asking questions, giving suggestions, providing examples, offering handouts and exercises, and pointing out patterns of errors, Success Center tutors guide students to make their own corrections and changes. The final paper is the responsibility of the student, not the Success Center Tutor. We are not a proofreading service.

Students must currently be enrolled in the same course in which they ask to be tutored.

Tutors Are Partners in Your Success

How to prepare for a successful tutoring session:

- ✦ Come prepared by bringing the assignment sheet or have it available on Blackboard or email. Specify the assignment guidelines and due date with our tutors so that they know how to structure the session.
- ✦ We want to talk about your papers; bring a list of specific questions regarding your concerns about the paper's clarity, purpose, and development of ideas.
- ✦ Please have your draft typed and printed so that tutors can more easily discuss your writing with you.
- ✦ Plan to spend at least 30 minutes for tutoring. It takes time to provide the feedback you need to revise your paper independently.
- ✦ Bringing papers in separately increases your chances for improvement more than last minute requests for help on multiple papers.
- ✦ For multiple reviews of the same paper, we find it helpful if you indicate changes made from previously reviewed drafts so we can see how your writing has improved and determine the next step to take.
- ✦ Tutors may not be able to review the entire content of papers over 5 pages, but they will read portions as requested by you, offering feedback and suggestions for improvement and revision.

What you can expect in a writing tutoring session:

- ✦ We want to have an active discussion with you to address your questions and plans for revision. Let us know your goals at the start of the session.
- ✦ We have creative ideas to make you the best writer you can be. Be willing to try different strategies to improve your audience awareness, logical organization, and purpose.
- ✦ We will comment on what is working well in the paper—you're better than you think!
- ✦ We tend to focus on your ideas and organization before worrying about grammar and punctuation.
- ✦ We'll show you the patterns of errors you're making. Then, you can show us what you've learned by correcting errors on your own.
- ✦ Since we do drop-in tutoring, please understand that our tutors may be assisting multiple students. The upside? You get more time to learn independently.
- ✦ Our tutoring sessions are more successful without the distraction of electronic devices.
- ✦ Our tutors are not miracle workers or mind readers, nor do they do the work for you. We'll put in our best effort, and we expect you to do the same, both in our sessions and in class.

Good writing takes time and practice, and tutors are always willing to help!