Better Writers, Not Better Papers

Most writing centers, and ours is not an exception, operate under the philosophy, “Better writers, not better papers.” In other words, our emphasis is on long term improvement of writing skills, not on quick fixes. Our goal is to provide one-to-one interaction with writers who make appointments or drop in to see us. In tutorials we talk with writers who are planning their papers or who are in the midst of writing them.

How Can We Help You?

Whether you are tackling an essay, a lab report, a research paper, or a piece of fiction, the Writing Center can help in the following areas:

- getting started
- overcoming writer’s block
- understanding college level writing assignments
- planning papers
- reorganizing and revising drafts
- documenting research papers
- improving mechanical skills
- preparing and organizing speeches
- designing effective resumés and/or letters of applications

How Can You Help Us?

We can help you best when you are on time for appointments and when you are prepared to work with us. You can help make the tutoring session productive if you do the following things:

Set your own goals: Think about what kind of help you really want from a tutor. Do you, for example, want to develop ideas that are already pretty well organized, or do you need help writing a thesis?

Bring both your assignment and any work you have done: If possible, bring your instructor’s assignment sheet, a description of the assignment from your textbook, or your class notes. Bring any questions you may have about the assignment and any drafts that you have started writing.

Mark sections of your draft with which you are uncomfortable and on which you would like to concentrate: If you can pinpoint specific sections or sentences in your draft about which you are unsure, you will not have to wait for a tutor to find them.