

West Chester University Writing Center

214 Lawrence Center, FHG Library (third floor)

610-436-2121

www.wcupa.edu/writingcenter

Dr. Margaret Ervin, Director

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Hours change each semester depending on tutors' schedules; however, we strive for these, approximately:
Monday – Thursday 10 am – 4 pm and Friday 10 am – 1 pm in Lawrence
Monday – Thursday and Sunday 5 pm – 10 pm in FHG Library, third floor

The writing center serves the entire university community: undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Our staff of nine trained and knowledgeable tutors, including graduate and undergraduate students, conducted over 2,000 tutorials last year. For 2013-2014, our staff has increased to 14, and we are looking forward to an even more productive year.

We welcome writers from every academic discipline, diverse cultural settings, and the full range of educational levels. This year's tutoring staff is composed of students from English, communication studies, public health, social work, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), and geography. In the fall, we will begin two initiatives—one for working with international students, another for providing online assistance to the new WCU campus in Philadelphia.

Our goal is to help visitors to the writing center become better writers. We do this in half-hour tutorials, conducted in a friendly, comfortable environment and on a one-to-one basis. We

- offer feedback to writers at any stage of a writing project, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, and proofreading;
- talk with writers about their ideas, strategies, strengths, and areas for improvement;
- discuss options for organizing writers' texts; consider titles, introductions, conclusions, voice, and tone;
- in the context of a writer's text, review rules for grammar, punctuation, syntax, and other aspects of correctness; go over mechanical issues such as active and passive verbs, parallelism, predication, and transitions; and discuss guidelines for citing and documenting sources.

To incorporate the writing center into your curriculum,

- consider contacting Margaret Ervin (mervin@wcupa.edu) to have a tutor visit your class to give a 10- minute overview of what students may expect at the writing center;
- put the center's hours, locations, URL (www.wcupa.edu/writingcenter), and telephone number (610-436-2121) on your syllabus;
- suggest the writing center as an antidote to procrastination; students can make an appointment the same day they receive an assignment;
- mention the writing center in the context of revision and peer review conferences before papers are at the proofreading stage; the writing center is not intended to be a last-minute fix-it shop;
- encourage your students to visit the writing center; this is preferable to assigning them. Students who are required to go are often less engaged with the process, although many who are assigned to visit the first time do become regulars later; and finally,
- refrain from referring to tutorials at the writing center as remedial; we are here for all writers, at all levels of competence and interest. We look forward to working with you and your students!

***We welcome your feedback on any aspect of the writing center's work.
Please feel free to contact Margaret Ervin at mervin@wcupa.edu.***