The University Writing Center

“Because writers need readers.”

Cavanaugh 427  ☎️ 274-2049
University Library 2125  ☎️ 278-8171
MTWR 9:00a-7:00p  MTWR 9:00a-7:00p
FS 9:00a-3:00p  F 9:00a-3:00p

UWC Website:  www.iupui.edu/~uwc

What is the University Writing Center?

It’s a place where students can go to talk about their writing projects with experienced readers and writers. All UWC services are free to IUPUI students, faculty, and staff.

You can find the University Writing Center in two convenient locations: Cavanaugh 427 and University Library 2125. Both Centers are staffed with the same experienced faculty and student tutors.

Students often visit the UWC for the first time while enrolled in freshman comp courses (W131 or W132, for example). However, the UWC welcomes students who write in any discipline (political science, social work, nursing, informatics, etc.) or for any purpose (resumes, scholarship applications, grad school statements, etc.).

Undergraduates may schedule up to three 30-minute tutoring sessions a week. Graduate students may schedule up to three 1-hour appointments with faculty tutors.

What is the UWC attitude toward students and their writing?

Very positive. UWC tutors don’t label writers “good” or “bad.” UWC tutors have learned that writing proficiency is based on experience. Like most skills, successful writing requires practice. With practice, most students learn the skills they need to write effectively in college. With experience, writing usually becomes easier for them.

UWC tutors believe writing is a process. Few writers draft effective college papers in one sitting. Most go through stages as they write - they gather ideas; do some pre-writing or talk out their ideas with someone; experiment with what they have to say in early drafts; revise; then edit and their work. Tutors are able to talk with students at any point in this writing process.

What kind of writers go to the UWC?

All kinds of student writers. UWC tutors work with inexperienced writers, offering support to those students as they practice the skills they need in order to become more effective college writers. They also work with experienced writers, acting as audiences for writers who have learned the value of trying out their ideas on readers as they draft.

How does the UWC go about helping student writers?

UWC tutors focus on individual writers and their concerns. They work with students to help them understand assignments; get started; plan documents; “unpack” sources and document citations; see ways to revise drafts; work on resumes, scholarship or program application
letters (Dental School, Kelley School, etc.); overcome writer’s block; and, especially, clarify thinking and ideas.

For many student writers, the hardest part of writing is getting ideas out of their heads and onto paper. UWC tutors ask questions and invite students to talk. This talk helps students clarify ideas and present them more effectively on paper. Tutors do not, however, do students’ work for them. They work hard at helping students learn ways to help themselves.

What other services does the UWC offer?


What does the UWC not do?

The UWC’s chief mission? To help students become better writers. They accomplish this mission by helping writers help themselves. Therefore, the UWC doesn’t accept “drop-off” drafts, because tutors work with students, not just their papers. Tutors do not edit or proofread for students, but they can help students learn ways to check their own work.

Get the most out of your UWC visit!

Schedule a tutoring session. During peak times (10:00a until 3:00p), and during midterms and finals, everyone has writing projects due, and the UWC gets busy! To make sure you can schedule a tutoring session at a time that’s convenient for you, call 274-2049 or 278-8171 to reserve a session in advance, or stop by CA 427 or UL 2125.

Plan ahead. Schedule a tutoring session several days before your writing project is due so you have time to continue work on your assignment(s).

Come prepared. Tutors help best when you help them understand your writing project. Bring assignment sheets, class notes, and/or instructor comments with you!

Bring a draft-in-progress. Tutors will help you see ways to revise your draft. No draft yet? Tutors can talk with you about understanding your assignment or about ways to get started.

Bring realistic expectations. The UWC is not a one-stop fix-it shop, and tutors don’t do the work for you. Most students continue working on papers after they leave the UWC. Students often schedule more than one tutoring session per assignment.

Come in while response from tutors can help! UWC tutors specialize in helping students identify ways to revise their writing. Tutors can offer only limited help the day papers are due.

Come ready to work with tutors. Don’t expect tutors to give you all the answers. The most valuable sessions happen when students and tutors work together to improve a piece of writing.