

Writing Resource Center: What Can Clients Expect?

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Bemidji State University
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What We Offer

Free one-on-one writing support for all writers at BSU.

- Consultations can be for 30 to 50 minutes
- Our trained consultants can help:
 - Brainstorm ideas
 - Understand audience and purpose
 - Develop a thesis
 - Organize ideas effectively
 - Develop cohesive paragraphs
 - Incorporate and document sources
 - Understand grammar, punctuation, and sentence-level issues
 - Develop revision strategies

What to Expect

- In a session, a client may expect to:
 - Read their paper aloud
 - Discuss ideas with the consultant
 - Freewrite
 - Rewrite sentences and paragraphs
 - Outline paragraphs
 - Make grammar corrections

Higher-Order (Global) Vs Lower-Order (Sentence-Level) Concerns

- Global Revisions: a paper's overall development and organization.
 - Development
 - Did the writer follow through on the thesis?
 - Did the writer offer enough supporting details?
 - Did the writer explain relationships between ideas?
 - Organization
 - Did the writer organize according to a particular format?
 - Did the writer organize according to the needs of a specific audience?

(From: The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors)

- LOCs: sentence-level revisions

Higher-Order (Global) Vs Lower-Order (Sentence-Level) Concerns

- Misconception that good writing equals to sentence-level accuracy
- Our consultants are trained to address HOCs first

Collaborative Pedagogy

“Collaboration, both in theory and practice reflects a broad-based epistemological shift... from viewing knowledge and reality as things exterior to or outside of us, as immediately accessible, individually knowable, measurable, and shareable – to viewing knowledge and reality as mediated by or constructed through language in social use, as socially constructed, contextualized, as, in short, the product of *collaboration*” (Andrea Lunsford).

Collaborative Pedagogy

Storehouse Model

- Knowledge and reality is outside of us and directly accessible
- Writing centers function as information stations “prescribing and handing out skills and strategies to individual learners.”

Garret Model

- Locates knowledge within students
- Writing centers aim to connect students to this knowledge

Collaborative Centers

- Knowledge viewed as contextual and socially constructed
- Such centers will place “control, power, and authority not in the tutor or staff, not in the individual student, but in the negotiating group.”

Collaborative Pedagogy

All writers can benefit

Peer-to-peer consultations

- We will not judge your writing; we will respond as a reader
- We will work with you as a peer
- We will focus on your needs

The Writing Process

Writing is a reiterative process

- Pre-Writing, Writing, Revising
- Revision process of experienced vs amateur writers (Nancy Sommers)
- WRC visits can help students focus on their writing process

We offer support at any stage in the writing process

- Our consultants:
 - Review work-in-progress drafts.
 - Help revise and fine-tune finished drafts.
 - Help get started on an assignment; they can help generate ideas and outlines.

How Can Faculty Connect Students to the WRC?

- Request Class visits
 - WRC consultants can visit your class to introduce our services to your students
- Encourage students to use the WRC
 - Include a short write-up about the WRC in your course syllabi (see handout)
 - Offer extra credits to students who visit the center
 - Students can engage in collaborative learning
 - Students will be motivated to begin their writing process early
 - Students can learn to focus on higher-order concerns

How Can Faculty Connect Students to the WRC?

- Share your writing assignments with us
 - We will learn about your assignments
 - We will be in better position to assist your students
- Refer students to work as consultants at the WRC.
 - We are constantly seeking students from different disciplines
 - Students are eligible to work as paid consultants after completing ENGL 5310: Writing Center Practicum, a semester-long tutor training course offered each spring.

Location and Hours

- Location: Room 326, A.C. Clark Library
- 2020 Spring Semester Hours
 - Monday: 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. & 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.