University Writing Center Workshops - Spring 2017

This semester’s workshops, sponsored by the Writing Center, the English Department, the Department of Media & Journalism, and the Academic Career & Planning Center, are free to all students, staff, and faculty at the University of South Dakota who wish to improve their writing skills. Join us!


**Why Read Literature?** (Wed. January 11, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): All USD students must complete English 210: Introduction to Literature as part of the institutional graduation requirements for first-year composition. Writing skills constitute a primary focus of this course, but why is the study of literature also an essential part of a liberal arts education? What skills, abilities, and insights do students develop by reading literature, and what value does this experience have after graduation? Workshop conducted by John Dudley, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor, Department of English.

**Short Fiction: Close Reading and Thesis Generation** (Wed. January 18, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): In this workshop, students will learn steps in preparing to write about short stories, including close reading, highlighting, annotating, and generating thesis ideas. Then we will read and analyze a very short story in order to practice these skills. The presenter is Marcella Remund, Instructor, Department of English.

**APA Documentation** (Wed. January 25, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): This workshop introduces students to the conventions of APA style citation and documentation. Topics addressed include why we use citation styles, what elements are common to citation styles, and how to take advantage of the APA style. Students will leave the workshop with a basic understanding of the APA style format as well as where to find additional online resources on APA. The workshop presenter is Kenneth Green, Instructor, Department of English.

**MLA Documentation** (Wed., February 1, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): This workshop introduces students to the conventions of MLA style citation and documentation. The workshop covers different ways to use sources within the text of essays, including quoting, paraphrasing, and using introductory tags for borrowed material. Guidelines for creating a works-cited list will also be presented. The workshop is primarily for students in humanities courses. The presenter is Heather Love, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English.

**Integrating Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism** (Wed. February 8, 7-8 p.m. Delzell 110): You know that you’re not supposed to drop quotations into your text without using signal phrases, right? You know that you should cite the source, whether you’re quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing, right? This hands-on workshop provides guidance for smoothly integrating sources into your sentences. The workshop presenter is Lindsey Stephens, PhD student, Department of English.

**Writing about Poetry** (Wed., February 15, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Do you find poetry a bit of a mystery? This workshop sheds light on some of the literary terminology used to write about poetry and describes the process of writing an analysis of a poem. Students then apply the process of analysis to a poem. The workshop presenter is Lisa Ann Robertson, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

**Writing Successful Essay Exams** (Wed., Feb. 22, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): This workshop prepares students for writing in-class essay exams. The workshop includes techniques for planning, quick drafting, and proofreading. The presenter is Paul Formisano, Director of Writing, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English.
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Writing the LONG Paper (Wed., March 1, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Learn about the process for writing the long paper. Topics include the following: choosing a successful topic; applying strategies for research, note-taking, organization, composition, and revision; and avoiding common pitfalls in a long writing project. The workshop is useful for anyone writing an Honors or graduate thesis, a research essay of fifteen or more pages, or any other long writing project. The presenter is Ben Hagen, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English.

Understanding and Using Social Media (Wed., March 15, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Fake news websites, satirical sites, opinion/editorial pieces, and outdated, online articles have made it challenging for students to find reliable sources on the Web for academic essays and projects. This interactive workshop, designed for students engaged in any form of academic research writing, concentrates on helping students to evaluate social media. The presenter is Janet Davison, Lecturer, Department of Media and Journalism.

Choosing and Using Textual Support (Wed., March 22, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): How do you choose textual evidence to support and develop your thesis? This hands-on workshop will introduce you to strategies for selecting examples (quotations) from academic articles and books. We will focus, in particular, on strategies for understanding and navigating scholarly sources. The goal is to equip you with techniques for choosing and effectively using the textual support that will strengthen your academic essays. The presenter is Prentiss Clark, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

Writing about Long Fiction (Novel) (Wed., March 29, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): This workshop, especially designed for students in ENGL 210 Introduction to Literature, describes the process of reading, analyzing, and writing about fiction, especially the novel. Students may ask questions about applying the process to their own writing. The presenter is Patricia DiMond, Instructor, Department of English.

From Seminar Paper to Scholarly Publication (Wed. April 5, 7-8 p.m. Delzell 110): This hands-on workshop will walk participants through the process of transforming a seminar paper into a publishable article. We will discuss research strategies, tips for revision (at the conceptual and technical levels), and finding an appropriate journal for one’s essay. We also will review examples of informative rejection letters and requests for revision. This workshop is designed for graduate students at any stage of their careers and will be of especial interest to creative and critical track students in the English Department. The workshop presenter is Prentiss Clark, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

Writing Your Way to a Winning Résumé and Cover Letter (Wed., April 12, 7-8 p.m. Delzell 110): This workshop provides practical tips and strategies for creating effective résumés and cover letters. Bring your questions. The presenter is Heather Johnson, Assistant Director, Academic Career and Planning Center.

Write-In (Wed., April 19, 7-11 p.m. Delzell 110): Are you working on an essay, a report, or another kind of writing project? Get helpful feedback from a writing consultant. You can also write and revise on your own at a nearby table. We will have free beverages and snacks! Drop in anytime from 7 to 11 p.m., Delzell 110.

10+ Suggestions for Improving Your Academic Writing (Wed., April 26, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Have you ever been told that your diction is too informal or that you need to make your writing more academic? This workshop offers practical suggestions for improving your academic writing, with hands-on exercises. The workshop presenter is Staci Schoenfeld, PhD student, Department of English.

Do you need individualized help with your writing? Come to the Writing Center! We can help you with all of your writing assignments, from start to finish! We encourage appointments but welcome drop-ins, too.

For more information, contact the Writing Center by phone at 605-677-5626, by email at wcenter@usd.edu, or in person in room 133, I. D. Weeks Library. You can also visit us online at http://www.usd.edu/writingcenter.