The workshops—sponsored by the USD Writing Center, the University Libraries, and the Departments of English and Art—are free and open to all USD students, staff, and faculty, no registration required. Attend via the Online Writing Center in D2L. (Most workshops are held on Wednesdays, but one, the summary workshop, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th.) See details below.

To attend live online, log into D2L and select the Online Writing Center (if you don’t see the link, email wcenctr@usd.edu to be added). Under Communications, select Zoom Conferencing (USD). Then, select the link for the current workshop. All times listed are Central Standing Time.

Building a Paragraph (Wed. Aug. 26th, 4-5 p.m., OWC-Zoom): Clear, well-developed paragraphs are essential to every successful academic essay. Learn strategies for creating effective paragraphs in this hands-on, interactive session. The workshop presenter is Marcella Remund, Instructor, Dept. of English.

The Power of Synthesis (Wed. Sept. 2, 4-5 p.m. OWC-Zoom): Synthesis, an important skill needed for many academic writing assignments, requires writers to perform such tasks as making connections or showing disagreement among ideas, combining ideas or concepts, demonstrating gaps in knowledge, creating a fuller understanding of a concept, or even producing new ideas. This workshop offers some helpful strategies for using synthesis. The workshop presenter is Patti DiMond, Instructor, Dept. of English.

Note-taking in the Time of COVID-19: Find the Method That Works Best for You. (Wed. Sept. 9, 4-5 p.m., OWC-Zoom): Learn why taking good notes matters to your success in class, and experiment with various note-taking methods, applied to a fun mini-discussion of art. The presenters are Lauren Freese, Assistant Professor, Department of Art, and Michelle Rogge Gannon, Writing Center Director.

APA Documentation (Wed. Sept. 16, 4-5 p.m. OWC-Zoom): This workshop introduces students to the conventions of APA style citation and documentation. 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 presenter is Ken Green, Instructor, Department of English.

MLA Documentation (Wed. Sept. 23, 4-5 p.m., OWC-Zoom): 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. Guidelines for creating a works-cited list will also be presented. The workshop is primarily for students in humanities courses. The workshop presenter is Lindsay Stephens, PhD student, Department of English.

Selecting Sources for Academic Writing Assignments (Wed. Sept. 30, 4-5 p.m. OWC-Zoom): Do you worry about finding the right sources for your academic writing assignments? Learn useful strategies for identifying appropriate sources for academic essays and other texts (as well as your future professional writing). The presenter is Dr. Carol Leibiger, Assoc. Professor and Information Literacy Coordinator, I. D. Weeks Library.
Integrating Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism (Wed. Oct. 7, 4-5 p.m. OWC-Zoom): 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? Whether you’re new to this concept or need to learn strategies for doing it more smoothly, this hands-on workshop provides guidance for integrating sources into your sentences. The workshop presenter is Benjamin Hagen, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

Writing an Effective Summary (Tue. Oct. 13, 4-5 p.m., OWC-Zoom): Being able to write an effective summary is essential not only in many college courses but also in future careers. In this workshop, students will study sample summaries and what makes them work, as well as drafting their own. The presenter is Lisa Ann Robertson, Assistant Professor, Department of English. Note the different day, Tuesday.

Media Analysis (Wed. Oct. 21, 4-5 p.m., OWC-Zoom): Learn how to approach media and/or American pop culture using critical thinking. The emphasis will not be to criticize, but to analyze media/pop culture and the messages we see and hear. We’ll also consider how we might become more thoughtful, informed consumers of these pervasive elements of our culture. The presenter is Jacque Morgan, M.A. student, Department of English.

Revision Strategies: From Thesis Statements to "Flowing" Prose (Wed. Nov. 4th, 4-5 p.m. OWC-Zoom): This hands-on workshop will guide you through several strategies for effectively (and efficiently!) revising your academic writing. If you struggle with thesis statements, organization (including introductions and conclusions), and/or creating “flow” in your writing, then this workshop is for you. Students from all academic fields are encouraged to attend. The presenter is Prentiss Clark, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

How to Write a Portfolio Introduction (Wed. Nov. 11, 4-5 p.m. OWC-Zoom): Portfolio-based classes, including English 101, challenge students to compose a compelling introduction for the portfolio. This interactive workshop will guide students through the process and pitfalls of writing an introduction worthy of preceding a fantastic portfolio. The presenter is Paul Formisano, Director of Writing, Dept. of English.

Zoom Write-In: Bring a Problem Paragraph (or Two or Three) (Wed. Nov. 18, 4-5 p.m., OWC-Zoom): Are you wrestling with one problematic part in an essay or other piece of writing? Or do you have a specific issue to address, such as citing sources correctly in APA or MLA style? Join us in Zoom! Writing consultants will be on hand to meet with you privately in a breakout room in Zoom. Be prepared to share your essay.

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.

For more information, contact the Writing Center. You can reach us by phone at 605-677-5626, by email at wcenter@usd.edu, or in person in room 133 in the Academic Commons, I.D. Weeks Library. You can also visit us online at http://www.usd.edu/writingcenter or in D2L via the Online Writing Center (email wcenter@usd.edu to be added to the OWC if you do not have access).