Writing Center Workshops

Spring 2020 – Delzell Room 110

“You don’t start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it’s good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it.” —Octavia E. Butler, science fiction author

The workshops—sponsored by the USD Writing Center, the Academic and Career Planning Center, and the Departments of English and Media & Journalism—are free and open to all USD students, staff, and faculty, no registration required. These workshops are eligible for Paw points. Most workshops start Wednesday at 7 p.m.; one is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30th. See details below.

**Distance students**, attend workshops live or view recordings by logging into the Online Writing Center in D2L (if you don’t see the link, email wcenter@usd.edu to be added). Under Communications, selecting **Zoom Conferencing (USD)**. For live workshops (central standard time), on the Upcoming Meetings tab, select your workshop. For recordings, select Cloud Recordings.

**Short Fiction: Close Reading and Thesis Generation** (Wed. January 15, 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.

**MLA Documentation** (Wed., Jan. 22, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): This workshop introduces you to the conventions of MLA-style citation and documentation. It covers how 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 Lindsay Stephens, PhD student, Department of English.

**Choosing and Using Textual Support** (Thurs., January 30, 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. *Note the special day, Thursday.*

**APA Documentation** (Wed., February 5, 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 APA style as well as where to find additional online resources on APA. The presenter is Kenneth Green, Instructor, Department of English.

**Writing about Poetry** (Wed., February 12, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Dig into poetry! 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 presenter is Lisa Ann Robertson, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

**Writing an Effective Conclusion** (Wed., Feb. 19, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Students often struggle to come up with effective conclusions for essays. Learn what works and what doesn’t in this interactive workshop. The presenter is Jillian Linster, Instructor, Department of English.

**Writing Successful Essay Exams** (Wed., Feb. 26, 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 Sarah Meirose, PhD student, Department of English.
Writing the LONG Essay/Thesis (Wed., Mar. 4, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Writing a long essay or thesis can be significantly different from writing shorter papers. This helpful workshop covers 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 lengthy research essay, or any other complex writing project. The presenter is John Dudley, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences.

Using Transitions (Wed., March 18, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Learn how to create flow in your essays, to connect your ideas, sentences, and paragraphs more smoothly through the use of appropriate transitions, in this hands-on workshop. The presenter is Patti DiMond, Instructor, Department of English.

Understanding and Using Social Media (Wed., March 25, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): Fake news websites, satirical sites, opinion/editorial pieces, sites containing misinformation or propaganda, 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.

Writing in Response to a Novel (Wed., Apr. 1, 7-8 p.m., Delzell 110): You've read the novel; now you're wondering how best to write an essay about it. Using the novel Beloved by Toni Morrison as a model, we will explore strategies for writing in response to a novel (bring your novel to the workshop). The presenter is Melanie Wood, Instructor, Department of English.

Writing Your Way to a Winning Résumé and Cover Letter (Wed., April 8, 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 22, 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.

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.