



Paper Vision

The official newsletter of the Writing Center at
Nyack College Manhattan Campus

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Writing Center Intense Treatment Workshop
- ◆ Finding us on the Web
- ◆ Pet Peeve profiles on Professors

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Tutors Receive Intense Treatment

The Intensive Treatment Workshop hosted by the Writing Center held on Tuesday August 11, 2008 began at 1:00pm and ended 4:00pm. The workshop covered several topics, from documentation formats to working with ESL students. The session included guest speakers: Dr. Ware, Prof. Bowen, and Prof. Waterman, our director. The session with Dr. Ware was in-depth and focused solely on the CMS format. He conducted a thorough review of footnotes, endnotes, and in-text citation. Prof. Bowen spoke about her experience with the ESL community and enlightened tutors on the challenges that ESL students faced. During a discussion on plagiarism, she mentioned that issues of plagiarism are often culturally sensitive and noted in our community, it is an academic offense that could result in the suspension or removal of the student from the institution.

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A Paper Prayer from the desk of the Director

Father of Wisdom, Wonder, and the Word, how wonderful you are!

How great is your name!

You, author and finisher of all writings, thank you for the greatest writer of all times, Christ Jesus, and also for our prolific trailblazer,

A. B. Simpson.

Now, Father, grant your writers the right words to relate their ideas, position, and findings; the right approach to delineate their research problems; the right format to present their citations: in-text, footnote, endnote, glossary, and bibliography.

Grant them word power to concisely and precisely reveal their thoughts and to conceal the subtleties embedded in their expressions.

You call us to establish the point and to express the supporting evidence in pellucidly clear, logically sound, and coherent language.

You call us to revisit the old places our tale has traveled.

Dear Father, as we liaise with writers, we pray you empower us to empower them to leave indelible imprints on the sands of time.

Work in us and through us, your vessels, that as we assist your other vessels passing this way, they may acquire greater self-confidence and leave a legacy of encouragement for others to come visit with us and share the benefits of the Manhattan Campus Writing Center.

This is our Prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

Millicent A. Waterman, Director

Music and Writing by Dawn Grannum



Dawn Grannum is an Undergraduate tutor in the Writing Center.

“There are obvious connections between writing and music”

There are obvious connections between writing and music. For years it has been a hot topic among educators. Some claim that if an individual studies music, he or she is likely to excel in the mathematical field. Some individuals argue that music takes away from one's ability to focus and learn effectively, while others still argue that music enhances creativity and education.

As the debate ensues, similarities between writing and musical composition can be made. Let me explain. In writing, certain structures and form as well as basic foundational principles such as knowledge of sentence structure, grammar, paragraph coherence etc. are required of the writer. The same can be said for an individual creating a musical composition (writing a music piece). He or she needs to learn the rules. The musician must know the basic foundational principles that deal with theory, notation, and voicing of instrumentation, just to name a few.

It was mentioned above that writers need to follow structure. This is true of the musician composing as well. In academic writing, there are several forms, such as MLA, APA, and CMS, once again just to name a few. The musician also has to choose a format before he or she begins composing (piano sonata, fugue, opera etc.) These are all forms that contain specific guidelines that the musician must follow in order to create a clear, effective piece. The writer, as well, follows certain guidelines so that his or her writing may be clear and coherent.

Writing also requires a good amount of motivation, discipline, and practice. These three habits go hand in hand and, when used together, can produce a very good writer. Writers should read novels, magazines, and/or periodicals to aid in the process of developing better writing techniques. Writers should also write, whether it be journaling or writing poetry or fictional stories. Writing continually helps the writer to become better in his or her craft. Editing is also very important. It is key that a writer be able to identify his or her mistakes and correct them.

The musical craft also requires its amount of motivation, discipline, and practice. Musicians need to practice consistently to become better in playing their instrument. A lot of repetition is involved in order for the individual to master his/her craft. If the student is motivated as well, then the material will not only be learned at a faster pace but will remain with the student. These are just a few connections between music and writing. There are definite similarities which the musician and the writer should not overlook. These two crafts together can motivate students to become better learners and cultured individuals.

PAPER VISION

The Sweetness and Sourness of the Writing Experience



" Writing is like the kind of sweet that I would go crazy for if I did not eat" Kula Thompson- Williams

" Writing becomes sour when assigned papers are not adequately paced ..." Margaret Olivencia

" Writing is sweet when I am satisfied with the finished product" Millicent A. Waterman

"Writing can sometimes be sour like a lemon making your lips pucker up and your eyes tear" Rachel Rodriguez

" When I am writing I feel as if I am really communicating" Joan Spence

" Writing is sour when my mind is not at peace" Rita Enwezor Udorji

" It is sweet to have a safe place to express your thoughts without being called crazy or judged" Diana Ciubotaru

" The strain of transitioning between freestyle, devotional, and academic writing can be a very sour experience for me" Alicia Wu

" The sweet thing about writing is formulating words and sentences as if creating a work of art" Jannis Shaw

"I find people who refuse to learn how to write sour" Daniel Pabon

**"Doing my Works
Cited page makes
writing sour"
Jonathan Johnson**

The Buzz About Pet Peeves by M.A.W.

A peeve is a feeling of resentment.

A pet peeve is an annoyance in writing.

In academic writing, pet peeves are common writing errors, causing professors to cringe as they read student papers. Some writing flaws include: lack of focus in essays; limited research; incoherent writing; plagiarism; poor grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and word use; and inappropriate documentation format. In the Writing Center and on our website, we carry pet peeve profiles of most professors as an additional tool to guide student writing and revision.

Students, come to the Writing Center.
Get assistance in revising your papers.

<http://www.nyack.edu/nyc/writing center/>

Tutors Receive Intense Treatment written by Dawn Grannum and Kula Thompson-Williams

Prof. Bowen also touched on some aspects of grammar and word use in writing, such as tense, sentence structure, and vocabulary which she described as common struggles among ESL students. Finally, Prof. Waterman conducted a thorough review of the use of semicolons and commas and gave an exercise to assess tutors' comprehension of the correct usage of those punctuations marks. After a brief session of questions and answers, the meeting concluded with refreshments and an opportunity to reflect and connect with each other.

The Intense Treatment Workshops are designed to effectively target dire areas in need of improvement among ongoing tutors that have served for a reasonable length of time in the Writing Center. These workshops will be provided periodically to encourage and maintain an environment where tutors can sharpen their skills to better serve the campus community and engage the art of writing.

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PAPER QUOTES, RIDDLES, and JOKES

A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat. He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree reading a book; the other was typing away on his typewriter. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.

<http://www.worldwidefreelance.com/writing-jokes.htm>

"It's a pleasure to see a building named for Ernest Hemingway," he said.
"Actually," said his guide, "it's named for Joshua Hemingway. No relation."
The visitor was astonished. "Was Joshua Hemingway a writer, also?"
"Yes, indeed," said his guide. "He wrote a check."

http://www19.homepage.villanova.edu/karyn.hollis/prof_academic/Courses/common_files/jokes_about_writing.htm

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his English class one day. "In English," he said, "A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."

<http://www.ahajokes.com/english.html>

Paper Acknowledgements

PERFECT PAPER TIPS + WASTE
From the desk of Professor Adelaide Pabon

◆ FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

A student may hand in a paper without any mistakes but still get a low grade because he/she didn't give the instructor what was requested.

◆ TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR WORK

Take the time to proofread your paper. Hand in work that is neat and shows excellence.

◆ GIVE YOURSELF AMPLE TIME FOR RE-WRITES

A good writer knows that the first draft is not the final copy.

Percelene McLain 8/8/2008 11:11 AM >>>

Good Morning Prof. Waterman and Kula,

I just wanted to let you both know that I received an A- in College II, and an A in World Civ. 1. I could not have done this without your assistance, and I wanted to let you know how so very much I appreciate your kindness and patience with me. I've never had such an appreciation for the Writing Center as I do now. If there is ever anything that I can do to support you, please let me know.

Love in Christ,
Percie



http://www.nyack.edu/nyc/writing_center/