University Writing Center

I know why the caged bird...
- Flings?
- Rings?
- Springs?
- Brings?

Sings!

Evans Library & West Campus Library
writingcenter.tamu.edu
979.458.1455

Even great writers need help
Types of Graduate School Writing Projects

• Research proposals
• Articles for peer-reviewed journals
• Thesis or dissertation
• Literature reviews
• Book chapters
• Conference papers
Before Writing

Consider the following questions:

What is the purpose of your project? Who is your audience?

What is your scope? (What can you realistically accomplish in the time given?)

What are your deadlines?

What does the final product look like?
Audience and Purpose

For each project, who might the audience be, and what is the purpose?

• Dissertation or thesis
• Journal article
• Grant proposal

How do the audience and purpose affect the content, tone, and style of a writing project?
Scope of Topic

What might be an appropriate scope for a dissertation?

Too big: Academic dishonesty
Too narrow: First-year student athletes plagiarizing in an English 104 class in 2009
Just right: Faculty perceptions of student plagiarism at a single institution

*Your scope will be limited by time, available resources, and study type.
Develop a Timeline

Divide the project into manageable sections. Work backward from the date the project needs to be completed.

Finish screening articles: 7/15/18
Literature review draft: 7/31/18
Finish methods section: 8/22/18
Finalize literature review: 8/31/18
Finish results and discussion: 9/17/18
Send article draft to chair: 10/01/18
Examine the End Product

Review your target publication(s) or assignment requirements for style and conventions.

✓ Structure
✓ Language and tone
✓ Citations
✓ Point of view
✓ Passive vs. active voice
✓ Verb tense
Conducting Background Searches/Literature Reviews
Whatever the subject, there’s a librarian for that.

Each subject librarian has a contact page. You can use resources on their page or chat, email, or meet in person with them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office Building</th>
<th>Expertise</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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Stay Organized: Work Smarter, Not Harder

**Take careful notes.**
Keep track of all of your sources.

**Avoid plagiarizing.**
Make a distinction between direct quotes and paraphrased information in your notes. Better yet, summarize the main points of the article in your own words.
Stay Organized: Work Smarter, Not Harder

<table>
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<th>Literature Matrix Template</th>
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Managing Citations

How can you keep track of your citations?

• **RefWorks**
  → Free through TAMU

• **Endnote**
  → Free through TAMU
Outlining might help you break up the project into smaller sections.

You can use headings and subheadings to organize your outline and your final product.

Use your outline to construct a timeline or daily task list.
Writing Strategies

Read what you have before you write or revise more.

Divide your project into manageable chunks, and make a list of tasks to do each day/week.

Join a writing group (in person or online).

Schedule time to write.

Reward yourself when you complete a section on time.

Make regular appointments at the University Writing Center.
Experiment with Different Software

- Pomodoro Technique®
- FocusWriter
- OmmWriter
- TreeSheets
- yWriter5
- StoryBook
Writing Center Services

• The DATA (Dissertation, Article, and Thesis Assistance) Program
• The Dissertation and Thesis Writing Retreat
• Graduate Student Workshops
• Online and face-to-face consultations
Revise

“The first draft reveals the art; revision reveals the artist.”
—Michael Lee
Revising

Allot ample time to revise your work

Remember that even professional writers have editors.
Receiving Feedback

Where can you find feedback?

- Chair/Professors
- **Writing Center**
- Peers

Learn your weaknesses so that you can more effectively edit your own work. Find graded writing projects and identify patterns in comments/markings.
Hours

Fall & Spring Semester Hours

Evans Library
*Appointments and walk-ins (if someone is available)
Sunday: 3-9 p.m.
Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: Closed

West Campus Library
*Walk-ins only
Sunday-Thursday: 5:30-9 p.m.

*Summer & Interim hours can be found on the UWC website!
About Our Consultants
Help with Every Type of Writing

Proposals
Abstracts
Articles
CVs
Dissertations
Grants
Literature Reviews
Theses
Help with Oral Communication

- Conference Presentations
- Poster/Slide Presentations
- Thesis/Dissertation Defenses
- Conversational English
- Interviews
Help at Every Stage

Understanding requirements

Brainstorming

Organizing

Writing

Reviewing and editing
Graduate Student Workshops

Once-a-week (Monday nights at 7 PM) workshops designed to improve your academic writing and public speaking skills.

Various topics that focus on the needs of graduate students.

Check out our website for the workshop schedule and to sign up online!
Dissertation and Thesis Assistance (DATA)

Receive one-on-one help with the same consultant for up to 5 sessions.

Start this program at any time during the semester (we suggest starting at least 30 days before your thesis/dissertation is due).
Proposal Writing Retreats

- Two days, 9 am to 4 pm, offered once or twice yearly.
- Write, eat, and get writing and research advice from UWC consultants and library staff.
Dissertation/Thesis Writing Retreats

- Four days, 9 am to 5 pm, during the interims in August, May, and January
- Write, eat, and get advice every day from our most experienced consultants.
About Consultations

In-person Consultations

Email Consultations

Web Consultations
About Consultations

Sessions begin on the hour or half-hour and can last up to either 25 or 45 minutes.

Consultations are limited to one per day.

Walk-ins are welcome when space is available.

Appointments can be booked through the end of the current semester.

We can provide you with a record of your visit, if you want one.
Booking an Appointment

- If you know you’ll need an appointment at a particular date in the future, you can book the appointment now!
- We have cancellations/rescheduling throughout the day; if you can’t find your desired time now, try booking later.
- We occasionally have walk-in appointments available—you can stop by if you’re in the area, or you can call the front desk at (979) 458-1455.
Do you know what you want to talk about?

What are your main concerns?

Do you have a model to follow (author guidelines, etc.)

Do you know what citation style you’re using? Do you have a list of your sources?
More Help

Quick question? Stop by the front desk or visit our website!

writingcenter.tamu.edu
• Helpful handouts
• Informative Write Right podcasts
• Workshops and events
UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

WE’LL HELP YOU FIND THE write WORDS

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We’re social!