Graduate Student Writing Workshop

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USF Writing Center
Writing Process

• What is the most challenging part of the writing process for you?
• What comes easily?
• How do you generally approach a writing project?
Writing Center Basics

• Stopped by Graduate Students from the Department of English

• Writing Center Hours are 10-9 M-Th, F 10-4, and Sunday 1-5

• Appointments are highly encouraged, but limited same-day scheduled appointments are available M-Th
How (and why) to include the Writing Center in your process

- Deadlines
- Professional Sphere/Peer review process
- Research Librarians
Scholarship

• Keep a writing calendar (regardless of your project)
• Stay organized
• Make writing collaborative as opposed to solitary
• Reading strategies
  • Remember the difference between summarizing, quoting, and paraphrasing
  • Approach disciplinary reading looking for a way to enter the conversation
Approaches to Graduate Writing

**Getting Started:**
- Establish your audience and rhetorical context
- Silence your editor
- Use invention strategies
  - Listing
  - Conversation
  - Outlining (Chronological, Thematical, Thesis-Focused)
  - Idea clusters/maps
Sample Cluster

Positive effects
- Instructor is easily accessible
- Multi-media
- Positive effects
- Research opportunities
- Word processing

Negative effects
- Students are distracted
- Books less important
- Students lose focus on spelling and penmanship
- Less personal interaction
- Negative effects
Organization: Introduction

- Introduction as a promise/blueprint
- Thesis: What's the main idea of your paper? What assertion do you want to make? What is at stake in your argument?
- Preview: What should your audience expect from your paper? What kind of situations or research are you going to use to prove or explain?
Organization: Body

- Each paragraph should have:
  - Transitional Sentence
  - Main idea
  - Support (research; quotations; evidence)

- The body of your paper should be organized so that it leads toward your conclusion.
Organization: Conclusion

- Conclusion should pull together the ideas you have laid out in your argument.
- Put your argument in a larger context – why does your argument matter to the scholarly conversation you are entering?
Proofreading and Editing

• Be precise and concise.
• Look for pronoun problems (Do you use “this” or “that” too often?)
• Avoid:
  - Wordiness
  - Slang
  - Imprecise Language
  - Contractions
Revision: Rewrite and Revise

- Read Aloud!
- Complete a reverse outline
- Create your own checklist based on your instructor’s rubric/your own expectations for the paper
  - What's the motivation for this paper?
  - What is the problem or main idea (thesis)?
  - How has the problem been solved/thesis been proven?
  - What are the larger implications of this work?