

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS OF PEER TUTORING: SJSU WRITING CENTER

Michelle Hager, Director

Michelle.Hager@sjsu.edu

408.924.2249



WRITING CENTER

INFORMATION

- Open whenever classes are in session (including winter and summer)
- Website: www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter
- Email: writingcenter@sjsu.edu
- Online/Virtual Services:
 - **Online tutoring** sessions using Zoom (including evening hours until 9:00 PM)
 - “Ask a Tutor” **live chat** service
 - **Workshops** via Zoom on various writing topics
 - Original online **resources** for self-study (e.g., videos, handouts, our blog)
- In-Person Locations (unavailable during fall 2020):
 - The **second floor of the MLK Library** for **tutoring appointments** that are scheduled in advance (M-Th, 10:00-7:00 and F, 10:00-3:00)
 - **Clark Hall 126** for **drop-in** tutoring sessions (M-Th, 10:00-3:00)



WRITING CENTER MISSION

- Mission: To enhance the writing skills of SJSU students so they can communicate clearly in any setting (informal, academic, or professional)
- Tutoring = a collaborative experience in which both the student and the tutor are engaged; no proofreading or editing services
- Writers from all disciplines, of all grade levels, and during all phases of the writing process; assistance with any piece of writing
 - Projects
 - Essays
 - Proposals
 - Literature Reviews
 - Research Papers
 - Cover Letters
 - Resumes
 - Personal Statements, and much more...



TUTOR TRAINING

- All **PEER tutors** from various disciplines—from sophomores through graduate students
- Rigorous 15+ hour training program prior to being hired officially
 - Knowledge-base and pedagogy training
 - Multilingual learner training
 - Tutoring best practices
 - Observations
 - Role-playing (mock tutoring)
- Continued training at monthly meetings
- Continued observations with feedback
- Specialized training offered for tutoring online and working with graduate-level writers



SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

- Two 45-minute **online tutoring** sessions per week, with a third (additional) session being available upon request for graduate students
- Assistance with quick questions online through “**Ask a Tutor**” **live chat service**
- Scheduled in-person tutoring sessions and additional assistance with quick questions through drop-in tutoring (unavailable in fall 2020)
- Numerous **resources posted online** (most of which are created by our student tutors): <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/writingresources>
- Full slate of **workshops** every semester on topics ranging from “Common Grammar and Punctuation Errors” to “Basic APA Style” to “Body Paragraphs” to “Un-Blurring Plagiarism and Paraphrasing”
- **Special programs**, including writing groups/retreats for graduate students
- **Writing contests** and other events



WRITING CENTER/TUTORING MYTHS

All the following are common myths about writing centers (meaning that they are **NOT true!**).

- Writing Center tutors will edit/proofread/revise student papers.
- Writing Center tutors can only help with grammar.
- Writing Center tutors will ensure that every error is corrected in a piece of student writing.
- Students need to have a writing product already completed before they can visit a writing tutor.
- Only students in English/writing classes can visit the Writing Center.
- Undergraduate student tutors can't work effectively with graduate students.
- Only students majoring in English can be Writing Center tutors.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS OF PEER TUTORING WRITING CENTER Q&A

- Open time for questions
- For more information about the Writing Center, visit www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter or direct questions to writingcenter@sjsu.edu OR michelle.hager@sjsu.edu.
- To view our informational video from Admitted Spartan Day, visit <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/admittedspartanday>.

