

# Writing Skills Improvement Program College of Humanities

## Resources and Assistance for Graduate Students

### University of Arizona Resources

#### Writing Skills Improvement Program

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<http://wsip.arizona.edu>

The Writing Skills Improvement Program (WSIP) offers a number of services to undergraduate and graduate students who desire to improve their writing skills. WSIP has a carefully selected staff of expert and committed professional writing coaches with Master's degrees and PhDs in English and related fields.

#### *Writing Coaching:*

Our staff work closely with those students who want to make a sincere effort to improve their writing skills: brainstorming, prewriting, composing, organizing, and refining writing at all levels. Coaching sessions are individual or small groups, for 30 – 50 minutes sessions.

#### *Graduate Writing and Reading Groups:*

WSIP also offers writing and reading small groups of up to 3 members plus a writing coach. Writing groups are particularly helpful for those of you preparing proposals, theses, dissertations, and/or articles for publication. Reading groups are especially useful for those of you who are struggling with scholarly texts.

#### *Weekly Workshop Series:*

WSIP offers the following workshop series during the regular academic year, free of charge to all students, staff, and faculty of the UA community

- **THE CRAFT OF WRITING:** This series will get you comfortable with generating ideas without worrying about how “perfect” the first draft is and with improving these first drafts in effective ways.
- **INTRODUCTION TO SCHOLARLY WRITING:** This series will introduce common elements of academic writing at the college level. We will engage in workshop activities to help strengthen writing skills in areas including analysis, development of a research process, and correct use of research material and reference styles.
- **GRAMMAR AND STYLE:** This series will address structural issues that all writers must consider. We will review Standard American English language rules and preferences in addition to common mistakes that writers make. We will practice ways to increase sentence fluency and fluidity and build academic vocabulary. This series is appropriate for English language learners as well as all writers who are working to strengthen their writing in general.
- **ADVANCED SCHOLARLY WRITING:** This series will address various aspects of graduate and post-graduate level writing such as grant and research proposals, research organization and use, manuscript preparation, comprehensive exam preparation, and Curriculum Vitae creation and maintenance.

*Graduate Writing Institute:*

The **Graduate Writing Institute** is held by the WSIP during the first three weeks of June for UA graduate students interested in improving their writing. Students must submit an application to be considered. Graduate students of various disciplines work on their writing in small groups and attend workshop presentations in large groups on relevant topics regarding writing. They also receive individual tutoring time. Funded by the Graduate College, this program assists graduate students to complete research papers and projects, conference presentations, theses, and dissertations.

Beginning in February of each year, you may download an application at <http://wsip.arizona.edu/graduate-writing-institute>.

**The Writing Center/Think Tank**

<http://thinktank.arizona.edu/tutoring/writing>

The University of Arizona Writing Center's mission is to provide free peer tutoring to all members of the UA community. As a service to our graduate students, the Writing Center now offers Graduate Writing Circles—a great way to meet with other graduate students simply to write and also to discuss and workshop your writing.

**Center for English as a Second Language**

P.O. Box 210024

1100 E James E Rogers Way

University of Arizona

Tucson, Arizona 85721-0024

Phone: 520-621-3637; Fax: 520-621-9180

<http://www.cesl.arizona.edu>

CESL provides a number of academic support services for international students. These services include a Grammar Hotline and On-line English Lessons. They also offer an extensive list of resources (websites, books, centers) for students seeking academic support in all areas, including writing. In addition, they offer excellent fee-based classes to international students.

**University of Arizona Library: Services for Graduate Students**

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/services/gradstudents>

This link offers access to comprehensive resources for thesis or dissertation research, managing citations, database searching, copyright basics, and much more.

**University of Arizona Graduate College**

<http://grad.arizona.edu/current-students>

The UA Graduate College is a core source of information and guidance for all UA graduate students for Degree Services, Funding and Employment Opportunities, Professional Development, Family Friendly Information, Health, Wellness and Safety, and other helpful information. Check out their new Graduate Center [here](#).

**University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC)**

<http://www.gpsc.arizona.edu/>

The GPSC is a student-operated council that provides funding, resource, and legislative support for graduate students of the University of Arizona. It serves as an advocate for the graduate student body and helps promote opportunities for professional growth in various venues. The GPSC offers an International Students Writing Workshop series, as well as workshops on cover letter and resume writing, interviewing, and career development for all graduate students.

### **Office of Instruction and Assessment at the University of Arizona (OIA)**

<http://oia.arizona.edu/>

The OIA provides services to the UA teaching community in course and curriculum development, including online courses and the use of instructional strategies and learning technologies..

### **International Student Association at the University of Arizona (ISA)**

<http://www.uaisa.org/about/>

ISA is student-run organization serving students from across the globe to foster cross-cultural understanding. Membership is free and open to all UA students, both international and domestic.

## **Resources Beyond the U of A—Writing Specific**

### ***Claremont Graduate University Writing Center***

Claremont Graduate University

<http://www.cgu.edu/pages/797.asp>

The Claremont Writing Center's website offers "Resources for Students," which includes numerous handouts on the research and writing process, on specific types of assignments, and on writing in particular disciplines. This website contains over 120 pages of handouts and information.

### ***Cleveland State University: Writing Help for Graduate Students***

<http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/writinghelpforGrads.html>

This website offers references to books as well as web links to various writing resources for graduate students.

### ***English as a Second Language, Ron C. Lee, PhD***

<http://www.rong-chang.com>

This English as a Second Language website serves as a starting point for ESL/EFL learners who want to study English online. The "Writing" section of this site offers extensive resources, including exercises, handouts, links, and suggested resources.

### ***University of Minnesota: Student Writing Support***

<http://writing.umn.edu/sws/quickhelp/index.html>

This site provides not only tutorials on various facets of the writing process, but also pages devoted to the needs of multilingual students and comprehensive information on writing theses, dissertations, and literature reviews. Of particular interest is a selection of model examples in these genres.

**MIT Online Writing and Communications Center**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

<http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/>

This website offers a comprehensive guide for student writers at any stage of the writing process. The [resources](#) section includes links to a wide variety of writing-related materials.

**Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue**

Purdue University

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

The OWL at Purdue offers an excellent selection of online handouts covering writing; research; grammar; and MLA, APA, and CMS documentation styles. The “[English as a Second Language](#)” section offers an extensive selection of grammar handouts and exercises geared to ESL/EFL writers.

**Online Grammar Handbook**

University of Minnesota

<http://www.onlinegrammar.org>

“21 Chapters of Links about College Writing and Research with Videos, Literature, Arguments, and Sample Papers.”

**Bedford/St. Martin’s Student Center for Rules for Writers, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition**

[http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/writersref7e/default.asp#t\\_612701](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/writersref7e/default.asp#t_612701)

This student companion website for *Rules for Writers*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition enhances the book by offering a variety of online resources developed by Diana Hacker and other writing experts, including a number of exercises.

**ESL GOLD: All levels of ESL Instruction; Information for Students and Teachers**

<http://www.ESLgold.com>

ESLgold offers ESL/EFL resources for students, teachers, and business professionals at all levels. Materials cover speaking, grammar, vocabulary, listening, reading, and writing, and are organized by skill level, including many exercises. Also included are textbook recommendations, the word of the day, various exercises, and tips for writing.

**Links to Writing Centers Online**

International Writing Centers Association

<http://writingcenters.org/resources/writing-centers-online/>

This website provides direct links to over 125 international writing center websites.

**Resources Beyond the U of A—General Support****The Association for the Support of Graduate Students**

<http://www.asgs.org/>

According to their website, the ASGS helps graduate students plan, initiate and complete their theses or dissertations. It also supports students in the development of effective writing skills. See also their online publication *Thesis News* ([http://www.asgs.org/thesis\\_news.html](http://www.asgs.org/thesis_news.html)).

### **Grad Resources**

<http://gradresources.org/>

Grad Resources recognizes the important role of graduate students in America. They offer services that address students' personal, emotional and spiritual needs, providing online materials, speakers, and "supportive faith-based communities that enable graduate students to flourish personally and professionally."

### **Books**

#### ***Fundamentals of English Grammar (English)***

(ISBN: 013013631X)

Publisher: Prentice Hall

A developmental skills text for mid-level students of English as a second or foreign language. It focuses on key structures and provides ample opportunities for practice through extensive and varied exercises.

#### ***Rules for Writers***

by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

Bedford/St. Martin's; 7th edition (2014) University of Arizona Edition

ISBN: 978-1-4576-5727-6

*Rules for Writers* provides a comprehensive guide to rules of English grammar and writing for MLA and APA styles. The UA edition has resources for students at the UA and resources for multilingual and ESL writers.

#### ***The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need: A One-Stop Source for Every Writing Assignment***

**by Susan Thurman**

Publisher: Adams Media Corporation (May 2003)

ISBN-10: 1580628559

ISBN-13: 978-1580628556

*The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need* provides guidelines for:

- Understanding the parts of speech and elements of a sentence
- Avoiding the most common grammar and punctuation mistakes
- Writing clearly and directly
- Approaching writing projects, whether large or small

#### ***The Scientist's Handbook for Writing Papers and Dissertations***

**by Antoinette M. Wilkinson**

Publisher: Prentice Hall (1991)

ISBN-10: 0139694110

ISBN-13: 978-0139694110

Although an older book, this is still one of the very best resources covering both the large issues and small details of scientific writing in all fields. .

***The Craft of Research***

by **Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams**

Publisher: U of Chicago Press (2008) (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

ISBN-10: 0226065669

ISBN-13: 978-0226065663

One of the very best resources for writers and researchers, covering in depth not only the process of academic writing, but how to structure highly readable and convincing texts.

***Writing the Winning Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide***

by **Allan A. Glatthorn**

Corwin Press (1998)

ISBN-10: 0803966784

ISBN-13: 978-0803966789

This book is a practical guide to taking students through how to plan, write, and present a dissertation or thesis.

***The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation***

by **Carol M. Roberts**

Publisher: Corwin Press (2010) (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

ISBN-10: 1412977983

ISBN-13: 978-1412977982

This comprehensive guide is not just a set of instructions, but recognizes the difficult struggles of the graduate student and provides coping strategies for the journey. Notable are the extremely concrete checklists for what should and should not be in each section of a dissertation.

***Completing the Qualitative Dissertation: A Road Map from Beginning to End***

by **Linda Bloomberg and Marie Volpe**

Publisher: Sage (2012) (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

ISBN: 978-1-452-0270-9

This book offers doctoral students accessible, practical tools for navigating each step of the qualitative dissertation journey. “The ultimate do-it-yourself guide for every chapter of the dissertation, blending theoretical, conceptual, and the practical, with updated “quality assessment checklists” for each chapter and charts for organizing, managing, and presenting data.

**For more information, contact the Writing Skills Improvement Program, [writingskills@email.arizona.edu](mailto:writingskills@email.arizona.edu), (520) 621-5849, <http://wsip.arizona.edu>.**