

Writing Skills Improvement Program College of Humanities

Resources and Assistance for International and Multilingual Students

Tips for International Student-Writers

Reading Begin reading your assigned readings as soon as possible to allow yourself more time to understand the material. Read the material as many times as you need to in order to improve your comprehension. During breaks and intersession, continue to read material in English. You can read from textbooks and required books, but it is just as important and valuable to read material that you enjoy, such as newspapers, magazines, novels, etc.

Writing Write in English throughout the writing process. Although you may find writing in English difficult, it is important that you build your skills in developing and expressing your ideas in the language. The more you practice your skills, the more developed they become.

Resources Take advantage of the many resources that are available to you.

- Purchase and use bilingual dictionaries as well as an English thesaurus and grammar book.
- Attend study groups, discussion sessions, and other helpful meetings your teacher may offer.
- Visit campus resource centers (Writing Skills Improvement Program, etc.) to learn about available tutoring services and writing workshops.
- Use the internet. There are many on-line services you may participate in and exercises you may download for free.

University of Arizona Resources

Writing Skills Improvement Program

1201 E. Helen Street

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ 85721

Phone: (520) 621-5849; Fax: (520) 621-2222

<http://wsip.arizona.edu>

The Writing Skills Improvement Program (WSIP) offers a number of services to undergraduate and graduate students who want 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.

© 2014 University of Arizona
Writing Skills Improvement Program
(520) 621-5849; <http://wsip.arizona.edu>

Updated November 2014

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 to understand and respond to 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. Tutors work with all types of writing at all stages of the writing

process. Free 15-minute drop-in, 30-minute group, and online tutoring sessions are offered. Individual 60-minute tutoring sessions are also offered for a fee. Students can make appointments online.

The 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: 520-621-1362 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.

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.

Online Resources

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.

Institutes for Writing and Rhetoric

Dartmouth University

<http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/>

<http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/multilingual-support>

This site offers multiple, downloadable handouts for students on numerous writing topics. The program designs these materials in order to provide students with useful tools to help them develop their writing skills.

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.

Georgetown Writing Center

Georgetown University

<http://www.library.georgetown.edu/writing-center>

The Georgetown Writing Center offers access to handouts regarding various writing topics, such as how to start writing an essay. It also provides links to numerous online writing resources for second language learners.

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.”

ESLgold: 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.

Books

Fundamentals of English Grammar with Audio CDs and Answer Key (4th Edition)

by Betty Schramper Azar and Stacy A. Hagen

ISBN: 0137071698

Publisher: Pearson Education ESL (2011)

Fundamentals of English Grammar remains 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.

While focusing on grammar, it promotes the development of all language skills.

Rules for Writers

by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

Publisher: 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

Bedford/St. Martin's Student Center for Rules for Writers, 7th Edition

http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/writersref7e/default.asp#t_612701

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

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

by Susan Thurman and Larry Shea

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
- Using correct punctuation in every sentence
- Writing clearly and directly
- Approaching writing projects, whether large or small