Graduate Writing Institute
What to Expect from the GWI

Attendance is required at all the events below. Flexibility is built into your GWI schedule, as we know you also have other commitments and responsibilities; it is expected that you will use non-GWI time for these commitments. If unexpected work or health conflicts occur, please talk with the GWI Coordinator (Dr. Leslie Dupont, ldupont@email.arizona.edu, 520-621-0374) first so we can find a way to address them and help you continue participating. If you disappear (i.e., don’t contact anyone and simply don’t show up), you will be withdrawn from the Institute.

Monday, Wednesday Morning Sessions

These sessions involve the entire GWI cohort and last between 2 and 3 hours. They are generally held from 9:00am to 12:00pm, and they are in a blended/hybrid environment.

“Blended/hybrid” refers to the fact that some folks are participating online via either Zoom or Adobe Connect. This blended participation adds an extra layer of complexity to the workshop because of the importance of keeping presentations and discussions interactive while addressing occasional technological difficulties.

MW sessions incorporate presentations, small-group discussions, writing activities, roundtable and panel discussions, and focused writing time. If you are attending in person and would like to try attending remotely instead, please contact the GWI Coordinator to see if you can make arrangements to do so. In most cases, that shouldn’t be a problem.

D2L Resources:
You will see many resources uploaded to “Content” on our Community D2L site. These are related to topics from the MW workshops and to graduate professionalization as a whole. Generally, these materials are not required reading or viewing; instead, they are supplemental. When a resource is required reading/viewing, I will always let you know via email and/or an announcement on D2L.

Tuesday, Thursday Facilitated Tutoring Groups

You will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in a facilitated small tutoring group for 1 hour and 50 minutes (110 minutes) to share, brainstorm, and discuss your writing. You may blend non-evaluative feedback techniques, more directive feedback, mini-writing sessions, and discussions about challenges and other issues related to your scholarly writing experiences. As a group, you may determine the focus of each
meeting; you will not be told what to do. Some groups will include remote attendees via Skype or Zoom, and your group facilitator (one of the GWI faculty) will set this up. If you are attending in person, you do not need to be on Skype or Zoom, but you do have that option with Zoom.

To prepare for these meetings, it can help you to review your responses to the three short-answer questions on the GWI application, which will refresh your memory of the writing project(s) you planned to focus on and the specific questions you have about the writing process. When you come to these meetings, please bring your laptop, paper and pen/pencil, and a draft of or notes about your writing (digital drafts are fine).

If your writing project has changed since you applied, it is perfectly fine to work on a new or different writing project. You are the one who determines the focus. During a group session, if you need non-evaluative feedback one day, to brainstorm ideas for outlining or starting a draft on another, and to focus on grammar and style on another, this is fine. We really mean it when we state that you retain complete ownership of your writing and writing process; we're here as guides, resources, and facilitators.

Individual Tutoring Sessions

Once a week during the Institute, you will also meet with a GWI faculty member for 50 minutes in an individual tutoring session to discuss your writing. As with the TTh groups, you may use these sessions to brainstorm, ask and answer questions, work on specific aspects of writing that challenge you, do some mini-writing sessions, and otherwise interact safely about your drafts and/or writing process. Here again, you determine what you need to focus on.

You individual writing tutor will always be a different GWI faculty member from your tutoring-group facilitator, allowing you to interact with a wider variety of readers.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about any aspect of the Institute, either before or during, and we can figure out the best way for you to address these issues. During the Institute, you are welcome to talk with me in person (either after MW sessions or by appointment), email me (ldupont@email.arizona.edu), or call me on my direct line (520-621-0374). I’m looking forward to working with you.

Take care!

Leslie