



ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

By Lauren Reynolds
Writing Center Staff

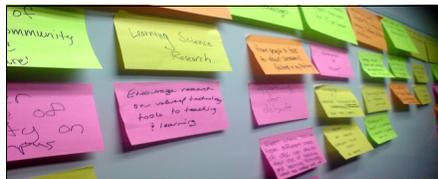
Hello students! With a new school year already in progress, the Writing Center wants to extend everyone a big warm welcome! We also have some tips, advice, and important information for you to start your semester off on the right foot.

What we do:

The Writing Center is here to help you with a variety of assignments, ranging from research papers to digital projects. Our consultants are excited to work with you on an individual basis and help you develop your work over the semester. Our hours are listed on our home page, and you can schedule face-to-face or online sessions. If you have never used us before, simply register. If you have been to the Writing Center before, then you already know what to do!

Here is a thoughtful tip:

Did you know that you usually receive all your assignments for the term *on the first day of class*? This means there really is no excuse for not planning ahead. This early in the semester our consultants can help you brainstorm, organize your thoughts, listen to your ideas, or plan out a basic schedule so that you can get ahead.



Planning Ahead:

You will benefit immensely from planning ahead—and I know this from personal experience (Hi! I'm Lauren, the writer of this fantastic article). My first semester back at school after a 2.5 year break, I had 4 papers due, all within the same month. Now, I would never do this again, but that semester, I made a terrible mistake. I waited until the month that the papers were due before I started writing! I was a frazzled mess for those four weeks.

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The Writing Center is located on the right side of the library, just past the magazine racks. Check www.athens.edu/writing to make an appointment and to see what times consultants are available. The Writing Center is a free service to all Athens State students, regardless of whether the writing help is related to a course or not. Visit us today!

Writing Center Prize Drawing

What is the Writing Center?

Do you know?

If so, how would you explain it to a friend?

If not, how would you find out?

The Athens State Writing Center wants **YOUR** help—we need clear explanations, understandable descriptions, and memorable visuals. Enter to win one of four bookstore gift cards or other prizes by visiting www.athens.edu/writingcenter/contest (or scanning the QR code below) and following the instructions.



*“If I waited ‘til I felt like writing, I’d never write at all.” -Anne Tyler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Accidental Tourist**

New Goals for the Writing Center

By Dr. Joy Bracewell
Writing Center Staff

On May 18th 2015, Athens State University welcomed the new Writing Center Director, Dr. Joy Bracewell. She is from Stone Mountain, Georgia. She has a Ph.D. in English with an emphasis in 19th-century Transatlantic Studies. This is an excerpt from an interview in which she discusses her goals for the Writing Center.



The writing center needs to grow with the university. The growth definitely can be measured quantitatively—more people using the center—but can also be understood in subtler ways. The services provided by the center should reflect the realities of students' need to integrate a traditional understanding of writing with their multi-literate/multimodal academic, professional, and personal lives. What does this mean? Writing and design always affect each other, especially now in our digital age. Communication occurs across multiple platforms. It changes according to context, and written, oral, visual, non-verbal, and electronic communication modes are all important components of even the tiniest interaction of our daily lives.

So, in practical terms:

The Athens State University Writing Center provides free services to help students at any stage of the writing and communication process. We offer tutoring for essays, research papers, presentations, digital writing (including blogs, wikis, & websites). In the short- and long-term, we are also working to improve all facets of our pedagogical mission, communications, and operations, including developing and supporting:

- Excellent consultants with ongoing professional development in multiple areas, including communication skills, one-on-one & group interactions, technological problem-solving, diversity awareness, conference experiences, social media & blogs
- Broad range of services for students, for each college
- Campus outreach with students, faculty, and staff

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My work and my other assignments suffered, as I barely slept. On one of the papers, I didn't even get to the minimum amount of pages because I simply ran out of time. I kept kicking myself because I should have planned ahead! Do not let this happen to you! Come in and we can help you make a plan to stay on track. It may seem like you have a lot of time, but trust me, that work is due sooner than you think.



Resources:

In addition, the Writing Center has many resources. Whether you want to get started on your own or just want to prepare a little, take a look at what we have. On our homepage, you will see a "Resources" tab. Clicking on it will take you to sites for writing styles, helpful websites for writers, and a few other things. In addition to those, check out our past blog posts. They are bursting with useful information, from backing up your work to the revision process, so take a look! Finally, don't forget that we have an amazing library teeming with resources and Librarians that are ready to assist. In fact, we are located in the library for a reason!

All in all, welcome back to Athens State University and come see us here at the Writing Center. Bring your syllabus, your rubric, and/or your assignment information, and we will be happy to get you started on your writing path.

Post-it image taken from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sonson/422595428>

My Little Pony image from <http://celebi-yoshi.deviantart.com/art/Pop-Art-Rarity-352713399>

Avoiding Plagiarism: MLA Style

The Basics of Documentation and Integrating Sources

Monday, Sept. 14th & Tuesday, Sept. 15th; 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Facilitators: Jennifer Wolfe, M.L.I.S., M.A. & Joy Bracewell, Ph.D.

Are you writing a paper for your English course or doing coursework after a long absence? MLA Style provides guidelines for publication and is used as a method for systematizing references in researched essays and papers at Athens State. Come to this workshop to learn how to avoid plagiarism. We'll cover the basics of MLA, including formatting, basic documentation for books, journals, and websites, and source integration. This overview workshop will give you the opportunity to have hands-on experience with this style.

