



**How to Make F2F Appointments, Online (24/7) with WOnline**  
 By Kat Padilla  
 Writing Center Staff

**What is WOnline?**

WOnline is an appointment and data tracking software program used by many academic writing centers, including the Athens State Writing Center. The program was created by Richard Hay, owner of the TWENTY-SIX DESIGN LLC ([www.26llc.com](http://www.26llc.com)).

For college students, WOnline provides a way to see what hours the Writing Center is open and who the available consultants are; this can help busy students make appointments that fit their busy schedules. Appointments may be made for 30 minutes or 60 minutes—and drop-in visits are welcome. For any appointment, we use WOnline to reserve a spot for the writer and to record the work we do together.

Records may be requested from Dr. Ricks by professors interested in their students' progress. The following article addresses Athens State students and explains how to register with WOnline and make face-to-face appointments (online appointments are also available: go to [www.athens.edu/writing](http://www.athens.edu/writing) for more information on our online tutorial services).

**Registering with WOnline**

To use WOnline, if you are an Athens State student, you must first register for a free account; only valid Athens State email accounts will work. The scheduling window shows one week at a time, but you can always view and make appointments in later weeks by clicking on the "NEXT WEEK" link located underneath the current date. You can then choose the date, time, and type of appointment that fits you best.

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**Thank you to all who visited the Writing Center in the Fall 2013 semester! Below are a few stats about the Writing Center in Fall 2013:**

**195**  
*Total appointments*

**42**  
*Online appts*  
 (live chat)

**42**  
*E-tutoring appts*  
 (email response)

*"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."*  
 — Rudyard Kipling

## Student Spotlight: Angela McCurdy

By NaTaya Hastings  
Writing Center Staff

Angela McCurdy, a senior at Athens State University, is the focus of November's Student Spotlight. Angela, who attended both Gadsden State and Snead State Community Colleges prior to her enrollment here, is a Business Management major and a Human Resources minor. Angela recently visited the Writing Center for help with her paper, entitled "Is it Ethical for CEO's and Upper Management to Accept Large Pay Increases when their Companies Profitability is Declining and/or the Company is Facing Bankruptcy?" Since neither of Angela's former schools had writing centers while she was a student there, she had never before had an experience with a writing center, and as a result, she was a little nervous at first, especially of WCOnline – the online tutoring service that the Athens State Writing Center offers its students.

"I was a bit skeptical about the online tutoring, but after my first appointment, I quickly realized I received the same quality of service. So thereafter, I received tutoring through e-mail or online chat and never felt like I was giving up anything," Angela said of her online experience. In fact, one of the things that Angela now loves about the Athens State Writing Center is "the convenience of meeting with tutors either in person, online chat, or through e-mail." The Writing Center even has a tutor available for six hours on Saturdays, which allows students with busy weekday lives to schedule tutoring on the weekends. As a busy mom, however, Angela wishes the Writing Center offered even more weekend hours.

Angela incorporates the Writing Center into several stages of her normal writing process. When approaching a paper, she chooses her topic, gathers all of her research, and prepares her first draft, including her reference page. "After I believe I have a good draft, I will then schedule an appointment with the writing center for their guidance," said Angela. "After I receive their comments," she continued, "I make revisions and then schedule another appointment with the writing center for a second review. I continue this process until my paper meets my satisfaction."

Being able to offer online appointments to its students is definitely one of the Writing Center's better features, as it allows students who live miles away and students who have busy home and work lives to receive help with their writing even if they can't find the time to drive to Athens. Angela has had no trouble making appointments or navigating WCOnline. "WCOnline is very user-friendly. Appointments are very easy to set up, and I've never had any problems with getting an appointment that worked with my schedule."

One of the biggest concerns students seem to have about setting up an online appointment with one of the Writing Center tutors is that they will not be able to understand what the tutor is trying to explain to them because the interaction is taking place via a chat window rather than face-to-face or over-the-phone. Angela, however, attests to the fact that this is not the case at all. "The tutor always made sure I understood exactly what needed [to be] revised and why," she said. "I had a clear understanding of what I did incorrectly and how to make it better."

Fear may also keep some students away from the Writing Center. They may be afraid to let others look at their papers or talk to a stranger or an "English major" about their writing. Thankfully, Angela has felt welcomed and understood by the writing center staff—and she felt criticism was given in a positive light. "The tutors are very friendly and critique papers without being cruel or hurtful. I always understood my papers needed [to be] revised and welcomed any comments from the tutoring center. I never took the comments as insults."

We in the Writing Center appreciate Angela's use of all of our services: thank you, Angela! As her story attests, there is no need to be apprehensive about sharing your writing with your peers. Everyone feels hesitant at times. When you visit the Writing Center, we hope that you will find the tutoring staff to be full of respect, professionalism, and courtesy. Come and see us! And Angela, we'll see YOU on your next visit!

### Planning for Face-to-Face (f2f) Appointments

To schedule a f2f appointment, simply choose the default session type when you make an appointment with WCOnline. After that, the next step is simply showing up! It's that easy.

But wait...why schedule a face-to-face appointment in this digital age? If you ask any of the consultants their preferred method for working with a client – this is it. The ability to read through a paper with the author sitting next to you is invaluable. Perhaps when reading, you have thought to yourself, "I wish I could ask the author what he meant." That is exactly what we do for you in the Writing Center. When you schedule a face-to-face appointment, the principal thing you can bring with you is YOU! Peer tutoring is a collaborative process between you, the consultant, and your paper. Our goal in working with you is to go beyond the grammar, punctuation, and formatting to delve into the heart of your writing – you and your thoughts on paper in a logical, cohesive manner!

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## Where is He Now? Keeping Up with Travis Sharp

By ToBorsha Swope  
Writing Center Staff

If you are wondering what happened to Travis Sharp, who used to work in the writing center, you don't have to look any further. I caught up with this recent alumnus to see how life outside of Athens State is going, and it couldn't be better. Travis is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Creative Writing at the University of Washington, Bothell campus.

"It's one of the few Creative Writing graduate programs focused on experimental writing, and it's one of the only Creative Writing graduate programs that doesn't place you within a certain genre," Travis stated on his reason for choosing UWB.

Travis has many things in the works. Being the founder and former editor of Athens State's own undergraduate journal for the College of the Arts & Sciences, *athena's web*, Travis' interest in journals has led to a position on the Editorial Board of the UWB Policy Journal.

Travis also took his passion for tutoring to Washington. He works as a Peer Writing Consultant at the UWB's Writing and Communication Center (WaCC). Travis worked as a peer tutor in the Writing Center at Athens State for most of his time here.

Of his experiences at Athens, Travis said: "Perhaps the greatest thing I've learned through my time at Athens State is that hard work and dedication truly pay off. A year ago, I couldn't have imagined that I would be living on the other side of the continent in Washington state, a grad student at the top-ranking University of Washington. It's one of the best schools in the world, and I'm here! I also couldn't have imagined getting my work published in journals. But I worked as hard as I possibly could on everything I involved myself in, from *athena's web* to the Athens State Writing Center to the Athenian Players, and that was recognized. Hard work is recognized, and it's worth it."

Keeping working hard Travis, as I'm sure we will be hearing more great things from you in the future!!!