

Building Success through Writing!



The Writing Center

Newsletter

What is WOnline?

By Kat Padilla
Writing Center Staff

WOnline is an appointment and data tracking software program used by many academic writing centers across the country, including Athens State University. It provides a way to see what hours the Writing Center is open, who the available consultants are, and allows you to make an appointment that fits your busy schedule. Appointments may be made for 30 minutes or 60 minutes—and drop-in visits are also welcome. For any appointment, we use WOnline to reserve your spot and to record the work we do together. To use WOnline, you must register for a free account and only valid Athens State email accounts will work. The Athens State Writing Center offers three different scheduling options:

Face-to-Face, Online, and E-Mail (called “etutoring” in WOnline).

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.

In this newsletter, I would like to concentrate on Face-to-Face tutoring.

Why? If you ask any of the consultants their preferred method for working with a client – this is it. The capability to read through a paper with the author sitting next to you is invaluable. Perhaps you have often thought to yourself, “I wish I could ask the author what he meant.” That is exactly what we can do together in the Writing Center.

When you schedule a face-to-face meeting in the writing center, the principal thing you can bring with you is YOU! Peer tutoring is a collaborative process between you, the tutor, and your assignment. When one of those pieces is missing, the conference can turn into a simple proof-reading session, one of the things we try to avoid here. Our goal in working with you is to go beyond the grammar, punctuation, and APA formatting (or MLA, Chicago, or Turabi-

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Writing Center Hours

Monday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
And new this semester:
Saturday: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Schedule an appointment at
www.athens.edu/writing

The center is on the bottom floor
of the library.

*“Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used
by mankind.”*

— Rudyard Kipling

Student Spotlight:

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 WOnline – 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 WOnline. "WOnline 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."

an styles) and delve into the heart of writing – you and your thoughts on paper in a logical, cohesive manner.

Remember:

You must register to use WOnline. The registration process is quick and easy. Once you have registered, you can then just log in with your Athens State e-mail address and the password you selected when you registered. If you are having difficulty, there is a Tegrity video on the Writing Center homepage that you can watch. You can also stop by the Writing Center and we will be happy to assist you (and give you a free pen!) I hope to see you in my WOnline scheduling window soon!

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Writing Center by-the-numbers

Writing Center Staff

These are the results of a year-long study in which students answered survey questions about the Writing Center:

- 85% of students agreed or strongly agreed that the Writing Center visits were of benefit.
- 51% of Athens State students are not aware that the Writing Center exists.
- 76% of students felt more confident as an independent writer after their visits.
- 53% of Athens State students conducted their Writing Center appointments online via the WC Online software. This is not surprising given the demographics of the average Athens State student and emphasizes the importance of utilizing technology to assist students with their writing skills.
- 76% of students felt more confident as an independent writer after their visits.
- 71% of students reported that they would likely or very likely use the Writing Center for future assignments.
- 95% of survey respondents found the process of scheduling an appointment either "easy" or "very easy."
- 80% of survey respondents found it "easy" or "very easy" to schedule an appointment that accommodated their schedule. When asked for recommendations to improve the Writing Center experience, many students suggested weekend hours or extended evening hours. The center has since added Saturday hours.
- Areas in which students felt the Writing Center improved the quality of their submission included brainstorming, developing a thesis and effective conclusion, analyzing both sides of an issue, citations, finding peer-reviewed articles, transitions, flow, sentence structure, sentence fragments, grammar, punctuation, and boosted confidence.

—This information was provided by assistant professor of Operations Management Kim Roberts