

Building Success through Writing!



Yes, You Can Write For Fun!

Writing Center Staff

Most college students normally do not write unless it is necessary, such as writing a paper for a class. Throughout my own college career, I have run into many people who do not participate in any type of leisure writing. By leisure writing, I mean journaling or writing poetry or even short stories.

What most people do not understand is that leisure writing can actually help someone become more successful. BusinessInsider.com posted an article on July 25, 2014, titled “An Entrepreneur Explains How Writing On Sundays Makes Him More Successful” that discusses five different reasons why leisure writing can make someone more successful. Leisure writing can:

1. Cultivate your authentic self.
2. Reaffirm your intentions.
3. Inspire and influence others.
4. Reduce your stress.
5. Create discipline.

Here are a few websites that can help with your daily, Sunday, or any -day-of-the-week writing:

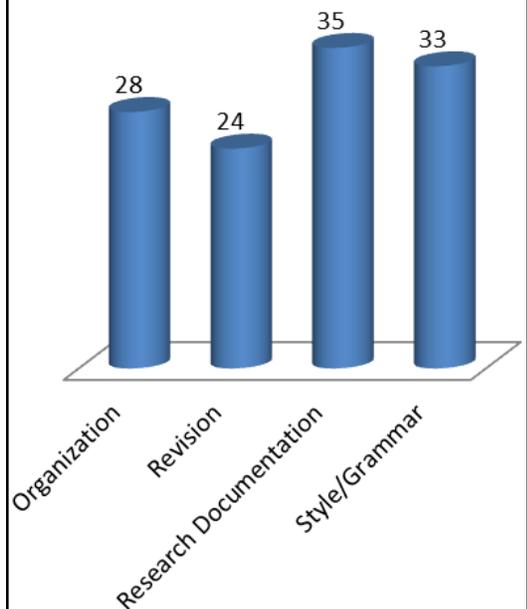
OhLife.com—is a website that sends you a daily e-mail asking how your day was and simply asks you to reply with a daily recount of your day, or anything for that matter. OhLife will record it on their website in your own account, which you can then return to look at any time.

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The Writing Center is located in the Athens State library in the Learning Commons. 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!

Most Requested Areas of Focus



“If you do not have the time to read, then you do not have the time (nor the tools) to write. Simple as that.”

—Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

The Writing Center Welcomes Interim Director Jordan Taylor

Mr. Taylor answers a few questions on his first experiences as director of the Athens State Writing Center.

How does Athens State's writing center compare with your experiences at other writing centers?

I began working at Calhoun Community College's writing lab in 2004 when I was a student here at Athens State. I continued to work there through graduate school and beyond; in fact, I still work part-time at Calhoun. Fortunately, Athens State runs a writing *center*, which is more oriented toward providing deeper levels of service to individual students. Rather than functioning like a computer or science lab, the Writing Center is a shared space where students can engage in dialogue about their writing with peer consultants. Through collaboration and discussion—not editing or proofreading—peer consultants aim to help students become better writers. We recognize that this cannot be accomplished in a 5- or 10-minute hit-and-run session. Therefore, we offer students the option of reserving 30- or 60-minute blocks. Admittedly, not all sessions will last the full time. For example, a review of a Blackboard discussion post should be relatively quick and painless. Many assignments, however, will warrant a more thorough handling, and some may warrant multiple visits to the Writing Center. With every visit, students will hopefully grow into better writers and, consequently, produce better work.

What's an observation you've made about the writing center or the students' writing in the few weeks you've been here?

Many times students come to the Writing Center and openly proclaim that their writing is terrible. This rarely turns out to be the case. Yes, students usually do have some deficiencies or flaws in their writing, but it is almost never as bad as they have led themselves to believe. Overall, I would even dare to say that the majority of student writing is actually good. Perhaps students lack confidence in their writing because they are uncomfortable with the process or because they typically do not score well or because they only receive negative feedback and negative reinforcement on what they have done poorly.

Students needn't fear judgment when they come to the Writing Center. Instead, students can expect peer consultants to engage them in a conversation about their writing, to pose questions, and to discuss revision strategies. Consultants will also point out a writer's strengths rather than focusing only on weaknesses. In short, the Writing Center aims improve a student's confidence in writing, not diminish it.

If you could just give one piece of advice on writing, one "tip," what would it be?

If you want to be a better writer, then write. And when you have finished writing, write some more. Repeat. However, I am not suggesting that you spend your time writing essays or annotated bibliographies. Those are things that involve writing for someone else. Instead, write for yourself: keep a journal, write a blog, review a movie, write a letter (yes, people still do that), compose a story, craft a poem. No matter what you write, you will be engaged in the exercise of putting thoughts on a page, and the process will get easier with practice.

Fall 2014 Tutor Hours: (Subject to change)

Monday: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 3p.m.

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First50.wordpress.com—is a blog devoted to daily creative writing with at least 50 words of your own story in the comments of each prompt the blog owner, Virginia DeBolt, posts.

Sixwordmemoirs.com—is a website that challenges you to write your own memoir on a daily basis in only six words. Can you describe who you are in only six words?

Squidoo.com—is a create-your-own-page type of website that encourages your own creativity, whatever it is that you create, to be shared with the rest of the Squidoo community.

Don't be afraid to write about anything on a daily basis, for it will help you in the long run. If you need help with any type of writing, the Writing Center is happy to help!