

# What's New at your WC



## Tip:

Treat the Writing Center's Twitter and Facebook pages like your very own personalized ChaCha and ask us anything writing related. We're serious, *anything*. From simple grammar tips to advice on how to get a paper started, we're here for your convenience! And remember, spread the word! Tell friends to add/follow us on Facebook at [PVwritingcentr](#) and Twitter [@PVwritingcenter!](#)



## Writing Center Goes Social

*Follow me! No, follow me!* Sound familiar? Online social networking is trending, making social interactions a little less personal and a lot more virtual. After all, who needs to go through that awkward process of face to face communication when you can just as easily follow thousands on Twitter and read their "deepest" thoughts and actions? Okay, admittedly that does sound just a little creepy, but on the brighter side, online social networking is not just for stalking. In fact, with online social networking becoming an increasingly popular form of communication, organizations, corporations, and many businesses (small and large) have found ways to use social networking tools such as Facebook or Twitter to their advantage. These tools are great for informing and advertising quickly, cost effectively, and efficiently. For your convenience, the Writing Center has recently entered the world of social networking.

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The Writing Center will be utilizing these tools to network with students and keep them updated on current writing projects and assignments. The Writing Center will also be using e-mail to answer students' questions and complete online consultations. Students are encouraged to interact with the Writing Center consultants on Facebook and Twitter to find out anything they need to know about the Writing Center, or to find out due dates for assignments. Students can follow the Writing Center on Twitter [@PVwritingcenter](#). They can also add the Writing Center on Facebook; the name of the page is [PVwritingcentr](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon.

-*Jakari Bates*



**What makes a good consultant?**

A good consultant is someone who can explain information and has good listening skills.

**As a consultant do you feel we are responsible to council students on issues other than writing?**

Yes.

**Why?**

Writing relates to a lot of different emotions. Some people need the extra encouragement to start the writing process. Others need inspiration or an example to help point them in the right direction. Listening to people's concerns or weaknesses may help assist the tutee with the writing process.

**What is some good advice to people who considered themselves as weak writers?**

Don't get discourage there is a good writer in all of us. Try to harness your ideas and thoughts about the topic. Organize those thoughts in a way that is appropriate for the paper.

**Have you always liked to write?**

Yes I have. Ever since I was 4 years old, I've loved to write. I produce several types of literary works including, prose, poetry, and essays.

*-Amber Smith*

## The How-To Guide: Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is a road map for your paper. It should be a clear sentence that tells the reader exactly what the paper is going to be about. Here is a quick guide on how to create a strong thesis statement.

**Step One:** Determine what type of paper you are writing. It may be a persuasive, analytical, expository, or research paper.

**Step Two:** Begin brainstorming. Consider what you want your paper to be about by collecting facts that could support your thesis. If there is an article or book you have to read, start collecting quotes from the author and details that interest you so you can begin to form an argument/claim.

**Step Three:** Begin a working thesis. A working thesis is a draft of what your final thesis will be. If your assignment requires you to take a position about a subject, make this clear in your thesis statement. Also, it is very important to remember your thesis statement must be arguable. If your claim cannot be challenged, revise your working thesis statement.

**Step Four:** Finalize your thesis statement. Review your working thesis and work out the kinks. Make sure that your statement is not too broad or too vague. A thesis is too broad if it's wordy, and you cannot fit your argument into one sentence. A vague thesis statement does not give insight to what your argument is, and might lead to an unorganized paper.

**Tip:** If your thesis includes words like "good", "successful", or "effectively" be sure to incorporate WHY something is good, WHAT makes something successful, and HOW something was done effectively. If your final thesis statement addresses the prompt, take a position others might challenge or oppose, and is clear you have a strong thesis statement!

*-Damaria Daniels*

# APA and MLA the Easy Way

## General APA Guidelines

Your essay should be typed, double spaced on standard-sized paper with 1" margins on all sides. APA also recommends using 12pt Times New Roman font. Include page header at the top of every page.

**Major Paper Sections:** Your Essay should include four major sections: the **Title Page**, **Abstract**, **Main Body**, and **References**.

**Title Page:** Your Title Page should include the title of the paper, the author's name, and the institutional affiliation (e.g. Prairie View A&M University). Also, remember to include a running head (header).

**Abstract:** Begin a new page. On the first line of the abstract page, center the word "Abstract". On the next line, begin by writing a brief summary between 150 and 250 words of the key points covered in the article (do not indent).

**In Text Citations:** Follow the author-date method of in-text citation. The author's last name and the year of the publication for the source should appear in the text, (Jones, 1998).

**Reference List:** The reference list, which appears at the end of the paper, contains the information necessary for the reader to locate and retrieve any source within the paper. Each source cited within the paper must appear in the Reference List; likewise, each entry in the reference list must be cited in the text. The references should begin on a new page apart from all other text.

## General MLA Guidelines

Your MLA essay should be typed, double spaced on standard-sized paper with 1" margins on all sides. MLA recommends 12pt Times New Roman font.

Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.

In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks.

**In Text Citations:** Referring to the works of others in your text is done by using a parenthetical citation which involves placing source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase. Any source information provided in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. The author's last name and the page numbers from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text.

Example: Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

**Works Cited:** Begin the work cited page on a separate page and continue to number consecutively. Alphabetize each entry by the first letter of each source. Use italics for books, magazines, films, etc. Double space all entries and indent the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and all other subsequent lines of the source.

-Herschel Norman



### Tip:

If you don't know how to start the prewriting process, the writing center will be happy to assist you.

By coming to the writing center with your assignment sheet and any other assignment materials, we can ensure that you have an effective and successful consultation.

### Chelsea Moody

Currently a senior, I am obtaining a BA in English with teacher certification in ELAR 8-12. Since joining the Writing Center's team, I have learned so much about leadership skills and dedication. I enjoy helping others, and this position provides numerous opportunities for me to foster this passion. As I continue to grow with the superb team in the Writing Center, I can only hope that I leave an impressionable mark behind once I march across the stage and enter the teaching world.

### Damaria Daniels

I am a 2-year writing consultant in the Writing Center. I am 20 years old, and I am from Houston, Texas. Being that my mother is an English teacher, I was raised to love the subject. I graduated in 2009 from Nimitz High School at the top of my class. I expect to graduate from Prairie View in the fall of 2012 with a B.A. in Mass Communications. With my degree I plan on going into Television broadcasting as an entertainment news reporter, and eventually a TV host. In my free time I enjoy songwriting, singing, listening to music, and working out. I am a very determined individual who is willing to chase every opportunity I am faced with.

### Herschel Norman

I am a graduating senior currently achieving my goal of receiving a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. I plan on returning to The Prairie View A&M University to further my education through a Master's program. I enjoy tutoring at the writing center because it allows me to further interact with my peers and make new friends; not just with my coworkers, but also my peers who come in for tutoring. I enjoy my time here and hope I get to see more of my peers.

## Fellow Panther Takes Advantage of the WC

Olandra Wilhite is a sophomore majoring in English. During her experiences with PVAMU's writing center, Wilhite states "each visit was inspirational and informative". Wilhite confessed that, "when I first came to the Writing Center, I did not know what to expect or even if the visit would be beneficial," however, she observed that everyone radiated "good energy" and were eager to address her concerns about her paper.

After several sessions in the writing center, Wilhite expressed that she would be more than obliged to return again due to the satisfying grade she received on her first paper.

*-Chelsea Moody*





# What to Bring to the Writing Center

By simply bringing in the right tools, you allow us to help you to the best of our ability.

**First:** Please bring in your assignment sheet. No matter what stage you are at in your paper, the assignment sheet tells you exactly what your professor wants you to include within your paper. By bringing in the assignment sheet, we are able to ensure that you have met all the requirements that your professor requested. In addition, we are able to clarify the assignment if you are having trouble

understanding what your professor requires. We have computers available for you to access the assignment sheet.

**Second:** Bring in a hard copy of your paper. If you are not able to bring in a hard copy of your paper, you can also access an electronic copy in the Writing Center. Also, feel free to bring in your personal laptop if that is where you saved your paper.

**Third:** Do the research. You need to have done all the necessary research and readings before coming in for a consultation.

**Fourth:** If you have not started on your assignment, we ask that you start brainstorming and at least create an outline before coming to the Writing Center.

## Did You Know??? HAPPILY N'EVER

Did you know, many of today's adults spend their childhood believing in happily ever afters? They are bombarded with images of beautiful fairy tale princesses swept off their feet by knights in shining armor. Little do many people know most fairytales did not end happily, they just end.

In the modern version of the tale *The Sleeping Beauty*, the princess pricks her finger, falls asleep and he is awakened by true love's kiss.

Unfortunately, the earlier version of the tale is not quite as pleasant. The princess still pricks her finger and falls asleep, but that is where the similarities end. The prince impregnates the sleeping princess, who awakens 9 months later after giving birth to twins. He returns and is surprised to find the princess is awake. He then takes his new family to the palace to the despair of his ogre wife.

The early tales were bleak because they were meant to teach children life lessons. While today's versions of the tales are purely glitz and glamour meant for entertainment. Will this make future generations more or less in touch with reality?

-Christine Holland



### Amber Smith

I was born in Denver, Colorado. I moved to Houston, Texas four years prior in the aspiration to attend an HBCU. I currently attend Prairie View A&M University where I am a senior. My major is Political Science, and I minor in Education. Before attending Prairie View I attended Houston Community College in Stafford, Texas where I participated in student government and theater of the arts. Before leaving HCC I received an associate's degree in the College of the Arts. Now at Prairie View I participate in Model United Nations and am President of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society. I plan to pursue a doctoral degree in political science, with a focus on international relations and comparative politics.

### Christine Holland

I am currently pursuing a bachelor of arts in Communications with English as a minor. I graduated from Heidelberg High School in Heidelberg, Germany in 2009. Reading is my passion. My favorite books are Peter Pan, Le Morte d'Arthur and Anne of Green Gables. I also love to write poetry. I have been writing poetry since I learned to write at the age of 7. After graduation I plan to obtain a Masters and Ph.d in Communications, and a career in some aspect of the radio industry. I am a DJ at KPVU, and the general manager of the student run radio station.

### Brionna Davis-Reyes

I am a Junior biology major, and I am working towards a career in medicine as a forensic psychiatrist. I was born in Michigan, raised in Indiana, and somehow found myself in good ole' Texas. I like to laugh and generally surround myself with people who have a healthy sense of humor. I enjoy Greek and Norse mythology, horror novels and movies, and dark fantasy/supernatural "stuff". I love reading and writing! If English were a man, I'd marry him (yeah, it gets real). I live life day by day, and I hope I can make a difference in the lives of others.

Dr. Godwin



**What are the teaching styles you utilize to ensure your students are engaged and effectively learning?**

"I use a discussion-based method for my students so that they are able to give ample, feedback on the topics assigned. However, I found out that this is sometimes ineffective because half of the class may not do the assigned reading. This creates lack of feedback."

**What are the goals you want your students to ultimately achieve from your class?**

"I want them to achieve critical and original thinking. Therefore, when they do learn how to form in-depth thoughts, they will then come up with new approaches to their work self-sufficiently".

**How long have you been teaching at PVAMU?**

"I have been teaching for over 15 years, but I have been instructing at PVAMU for 2 years, with this current semester making it the start of my second."

**What are some of the classes you are teaching this semester?**

"The classes I'm teaching are Intro to Mass Communications, Visual Communications, and Obligatory Speech."

-Chelsea Moody

## The Writing Center Celebrates the National Day on Writing

Writing impacts our lives daily, whether it's through literature or sending a quick text message. Writing is how we communicate our thoughts and ideas with others, and it is a versatile craft that everyone utilizes in one way or another. The National Council of Teachers of English established the National Day on Writing on October 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the importance of writing in the nation. Writing is a worthwhile and lifelong process, and so the Writing Center proudly celebrated this year's National Day on Writing by hosting several events including a guess speaker.

Students, in particular, enjoyed playing the Exquisite Corpse Poem game with us while celebrating the National Day on Writing. Not to fret, no real corpses were involved. But we did write some *killer* verses. Yes, that was a joke.

The game has been historically played since the early 1900s and essentially each player is asked to contribute one word to an ongoing verse/phrase. Players are usually instructed to follow some sort of structural arrangement such as "The adjective noun adverb verb the adjective noun". The name of the game is actually derived from the first verse created by the original players following the same arrangement as described above: *the exquisite corpse will drink the new wine*.

Here is the poem that some of your fellow Panthers created. Enjoy!

-Brionna Davis-Reyes

Swag is not a state of being,  
Improvement,  
Like I'm a thesaurus,  
Writing is truly a form of art,  
So everyone come do your part,  
So we can have a great start,  
Oh remy, thou art wonderful,  
But these cheese eggs I just ate  
Will make the toilet full,  
To empty the toilet FLUSH,  
The sound goes SWOOOSH,  
And in that "SWOOOSH" you  
Hear the birds and the bees as  
They glow with melancholy  
Sadness and happiness is not real  
As ducks walk they quack  
Death is sure  
Life is full of meaning  
Self-love starts with being real with self

