Writing Center Support for Faculty

The Writing Center remains ready to support faculty if the need arises to move your writing-intensive course online. Students will be able to access SmartThinking's asynchronous online writing center, for feedback on any writing assignment. This service will be embedded in Canvas. Our staff will continue to provide support for faculty by offering:

- Writing workshops delivered by video synchronously or asynchronously. We have workshops ready to go on the following topics:

Peer review	MLA/APA format
Thesis development	Source integration
Organization and outlining	Concise writing
(reverse outlining)	Compare and contrast writing
Common grammatical concerns	Metacognition
Topic sentences and transitions	Others by request

- Help converting writing workshops to interactive canvas modules.
- Assistance locating writing resources to support your students.
- Consultations on assignments, writing concerns, or scaffolding writing assignments in a digital environment via phone, Webex, or email.

To request support, complete a [request form](#) or contact a Writing Center staff member.

Please see below for additional tips and resources to help you move your writing course online.

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Tips for Taking Your Writing-Intensive Class Online

Use Peer Review on Canvas
- Use the built-in Canvas peer-review tool to help your students continue working collaboratively on the writing process. Students will be able to comment on each other's papers using the Speedgrader tools and comment boxes.
- Students can complete a peer review using multiple tools including highlighting specific aspects of a paper, commenting on certain writing areas, or responding to other peer-reviewers' comments.
- If you have a peer review form, student reviewers can also upload that in the comment box.
- Peer reviews can be anonymous.
- Instructions: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10094-415254249

Use Screencasting to respond to work or demo how-tos or lessons:
- Allows you to record your voice and your screen to examine writing up close and personally. This is a great way to model revision techniques.
- Screencasting software is built-in to Macs
- Screencast-O-Matic https://screencast-o-matic.com/ free and allows up to 15 minutes of recording and gives students a link to listen/watch. Five minutes of comments to prevent cognitive overload
- WebEx allows you to record your screen as well
- Keep videos under six minutes for maximum impact

Conference with students on their writing via Webex or other videoconferencing tool:
- Include a Dear Reader assignment before your meeting so that they've prioritized what feedback they want from you, and you have a way of organizing your one-on-one conference time efficiently and effectively.

Dear Reader Letter Example

In the comment box that appears when you submit this assignment, post a brief letter to me reflecting on the process of writing this essay so far.

- **Rhetorical Situation:** Who did you imagine your audience to be for this assignment? Describe your intended audience and how that impacted your writing process.
- **Process:** What was your process in writing this essay? How was this similar to or different than the writing process you used for your last essay? What parts of the writing process did you enjoy? Will you use any parts of this writing process again? If so, why? If not, why not?
- **Strengths:** What do you think is your biggest strength in this essay? What did you do particularly well? Explain. Be specific about your essay and your strengths.
- **Weaknesses:** What is your biggest weakness in this essay? What do you still need to improve upon in the next draft? Explain your answer.
- **Classwork:** What skills, exercises, homework assignments or class activities helped you most with this essay? Be specific.
- **Feedback:** On what areas of your essay would you most value feedback? What questions do you have for

Use existing online materials:

- There are a wealth of resources online related to writing. Don't feel like you need to reinvent the wheel. You can create a multi-modal experience without having to create everything from scratch.

Discuss texts via annotation:

- In addition to using the discussions in Canvas, Office 365 / One Drive, Google Docs, or MIT's Annotation Hyperstudio allow students to annotate texts, and comment on other students' annotations. This is a great way to simulate a seminar-style discussion of a reading or a text.

Other helpful writing resources for you or your students:

- **Purdue OWL**
- **University of Michigan's Sweetland Center for Writing – Teaching Resources**
- ***Learning and Teaching Writing Online: Strategies for Success*** (ebook available via Salve's Library)
- Guide to Grammar & Writing Grammar support – this site needs a bit of context. It's very dated in look and feel, but provides excellent support. The quizzes provide great practice, particularly if you'd like to target an individual student's needs. Here are some favorites:
  - Eliminating Wordiness
  - Avoiding Comma Splices