

@USFWriting

July 2016

MONTHLY MESSAGE *from* THE STUDIO

¡Bienvenidos! That's Spanish for welcome. No, I'm not Spanish, nor can I speak the language fluently, but I find that some Spanish words are just plain cooler than their English counterparts. *Gracias*, for example, slithers through the lips and hisses out into air, making the word substantially more fun to say instead of "thank you." At the Writing Studio, we are obsessed with words and how they come together to create sentences, which go on to build paragraphs and essays and one-hundred page dissertations. Or maybe your words craft a personal statement or résumé for your dream job. You could even be a young Em

Dickinson, scribbling down poem after poem. Whatever the project and whatever the words, the Writing Studio is here as a resource for all students, faculty, and staff. Our consultants (graduate students and beyond) are eager to sit down with you for a standard, 50-minute session. And you can come once a week. Completely free. No strings attached! We hope to see you this summer and onward. We hope to make you a better writer.

¡Adios!

-Rob Alexander,
Assistant Coordinator

#WritersofUSF



"I love writing and want to write a book one day. It's a big goal, and difficult, but it's something I want to work toward. Writing is an excellent way to express oneself, to put words to what you experience. Writing can be criticized and interpreted in many ways, but writing in itself is a wonderful experience.

"Right now I'm working on my thesis for the Honors College. It's about sustainable urbanism. I took a class called Design Thinking, and the professor's perspective was that design thinking is part of our daily lives, and I found that fascinating. Today I brought my prospectus. The prospectus is very important. I think of it as the trailer to a film – the ideas need to be conveyed clearly and directly so that readers get an overall sense of what the whole thing is about. I want my prospectus to be as clear and direct as possible, to give a good sense of what the story is about."

- Pallavi, Beginning Junior Year, Business Major

CONSULTANT QUIPS

[Quick Tips for Writers]

Try to pick topics that you actually like. A lot of times, when people have writer's block, it's because they're not interested in the subject, or they don't know anything about it.

-JESSICA

If I'm stuck, I strongly encourage brainstorming by hand. Writing is not a linear process, but a collage process. Move things around to see what fits best.

-ANNALISE

If you've been writing for a long time, and your brain is fried, take a break. You have to step away from the computer. Try to mix up the medium—use a pen or a speech-to-text device.

-ROB

Go through your writing to see what's in each paragraph and pull out the important ideas because then you can see when you've gone awry. Usually it's when people have gone awry that they get stuck.

-JOANNA

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT:

IN PERSON

USF Tampa Library - 2nd Floor

BY PHONE
(813) 974-8293

ONLINE
usf.edu/writing

THE WRITING
studio 

#WritingConsultantsofUSF



“The [Pulse] shooting and the discourses surrounding it and leading up to it are related to my thesis. I’m using this Italian philosopher – a contemporary philosopher who is still living – who argues that the state gets to decide who matters and who doesn’t. If the state decides that a group of people is ‘other,’ then they get to start taking rights away from them, and people don’t care or do anything about it because it has been normalized to take away the rights of the other. The holocaust is an example of this. The state othered the Jews and started taking away their rights, and because it was state sanctioned, the courts didn’t do anything to protect them, and the people remained compliant.”

—Jennifer Icton, USF Writing Consultant

For Graduate Writers

“What’s your advice for writing a dissertation?”

For something like a dissertation or an article or a thesis, outlining helps to keep focus with big projects. It can be really easy to get overwhelmed by the size of the whole thing, so outlining each individual chapter or section to help keeps the focus narrow and manageable is important. To help you really organize it, outline the same thing six times in a row. That really helps make it feel under control. Each time that you progress, you start adding things or rearranging things, and you can see more how it’s working out. By the time you get to the fifth or sixth iteration of your outline, you have really been able to gain focus and see what it is that you are wanting to happen and what makes sense to happen in that chapter or section. There are often pieces that you think belong in there that really don’t, or things you’re missing that you need to talk about. Being able to think about it in small chunks, and not thinking all the time about the whole thing is really important. When you really think about the size of it, it’s almost impossible.

—Joanna Bartell, PhD



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Writers Blog



“Coherence & Cohesion:
Putting the Right Pieces Together ”

Studio intern Bryan Lordeus’s post on coherence and cohesion was featured on The Student Writing Center newsletter! In his post, he discusses what he learned from *Style Lessons in Clarity and Grace* by Joseph Bizup and Joseph Williams. “While it’s essential to develop your vocabulary, there’s more to successful writing than just using fancy words from a thesaurus,” Bryan writes, which is important to remember. The book features a jigsaw analogy that has stuck with him for a long time, which he uses in his post about how writing is simply arranging pieces, so they fit together.

Visit the Writers Blog for more insight at <http://www.lib.usf.edu/writing/category/wcnews/>

Lorraine Monteagut writes about her experience consulting with iSessions, which integrate iPad technology to enhance writing consultations. Lorraine notes that the benefits of these sessions are rooted in not only the consultant making notes directly on the writer’s paper (on the iPad) but also audio recordings of these sessions that can be emailed to the writer after the session. She writes, “I’m finding that writers are more open to brainstorming during iSessions, talking about large-order issues and asking questions. I highlight minor issues for them to review later, and I think because they know they can always go back to the recording, they don’t worry as much about the little stuff.”

Visit the Writing Professionals Blog at <http://usfwritingstudio.blogspot.com/> to read more!

Writing Professionals Blog



“Observations from iSessions”