

@USFWriting

Oct 2016

MONTHLY MESSAGE *from* THE STUDIO

Over the past six years, USF's Writing Studio has grown from a small writing center housed in the downstairs corner of the Library, hidden away behind moveable partitions, to a robust Writing Studio, located on the second floor of the Library in a beautiful, glass-enclosed space and well-positioned near USF's Academic Success Center, such as tutoring and the SMART Lab. Growth is important to us, because the growth of our space and our services means that we have been, and continue to be, an important place on campus to help writers of all levels grow their craft. At any given time in the Writing Studio, you

can find freshmen composing papers for their Composition I course, graduating seniors crafting capstone papers, graduate students working on dissertations, instructors developing project overviews, and faculty members polishing articles for publication. Growth is what binds these writers together—all of these writers come to the Writing Studio in order to develop their craft—the craft of writing. And one of the first things that every writer learns is that there is always room for improvement—there is always room to grow. Come grow with us!

-Sandy Branham,
Former Assistant Coordinator

#WritersofUSF



“Writing is really important in my field. I’m a biology major, and my goal is to go to medical school. In medicine, you have to be able to communicate orally and through writing. I’m alright at writing, but not the best. I have trouble putting my ideas on paper – I have the ideas and I know how I want to connect them, but actually getting them onto the page can be difficult. It just takes time, though, so I make sure to give myself time. I usually work on a piece for about 2-3 days.”

- Pallavi, Beginning Junior Year, Business Major

CONSULTANT QUIPS

[Quick Tips for Writers]

People tend to get insecure about grammar, style, not having great ideas—just write whatever, and even if you think it’s crap, don’t stop writing.

—BRITTANY

I think that one of the most challenging areas of paper writing is getting out of the cycle of anxiety where you start and stop and start and stop. That takes a lot of emotional energy, but if you can learn some different strategies that work for you, the quality of the paper goes up. It reduces the anxiety.

—JENNIFER

I think the most difficult part of writing an academic essay is sustaining interest in a project long enough to thoroughly outline and draft a good project over time, so I usually advise folks to write about something in which they are very invested.

—SANDRA

Break the writing task into smaller, more manageable tasks.

—WENDY

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT:

IN PERSON
USF Tampa Library - 2nd Floor

BY PHONE
(813) 974-8293

ONLINE
usf.edu/writing

#WritingConsultantsofUSF



“What I like most about working in the Writing Studio is that I get the opportunity to work with writers of all different levels and I get to see myself in their writing. It helps me to reflect on my own writing and challenges me to improve.”

“While I am knee-deep in preparing my PhD program applications (contacting different programs and professors), I am also taking a class in a subject that I had not previously considered studying. I have always been drawn to 18th century British Literature but this class on 18th century American Literature has caused me to consider pursuing a transatlantic research path.”

-Seth Spencer, USF Writing Consultant

For Graduate Writers

“What’s your advice for writing a Creative Writing thesis?”

Whether your project is a short story/essay collection, a book of poems, or a singular larger work like a memoir or novel, you need to be prepared and willing to write and write and write. Write your project first and foremost. NOTE: Revision and workshops are important steps, but before you send opening chapters to a friend or before you start editing the first couple poems, make sure you have finished a draft of your project in its entirety. I have seen many writers get stuck on rewriting the beginning over and over again (I, too, am guilty of doing so). So my super, stellar, number 1 tip for the Creative Writing Thesis is to ignore the Three “E”s: editing, eating and everything else. Write your project. Write every word. Once the ink dries, then you have my permission to revise. And to eat. Hmm? What are you still doing here? You should be writing. Go!



-Rob Alexander, MFA

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Writers Blog



“Decoding an Assignment Sheet (Yes—there’s more to it than just reading it)”

One of the most critical methods to perform well on a writing assignment is understanding what you are being asked to do and what your professor expects of you. In this post, Brianna Jerman details a number of strategies you can implement to better understand your writing assignment. The “cheat sheet or a recipe of sorts in the form of the assignment sheet,” as Brianna calls it, has all of the information a writer needs to create a checklist to guide them through the writing process, from start to finish, and get them through their assignment smoothly.

Visit the Writers Blog at www.lib.usf.edu/writersblog/ for more insight!

The Writing Studio maintains a philosophy of being a service that neither proofreads nor edits. Instead, the Studio offers Socratic-focused consultations that aim to get writers thinking about their work on a more critical level. In her post, Jay Thompson offers a personal look into her transition from being an editor to working as a non-directive writing consultant. She discusses some practices of non-directive consultation, including embracing silence, having the writer read, mentioning patterns, and speaking in generals, not specifics. Jay has found that the “idea a writer finally puts forth after moments of silence is often a good one.”

Visit the Writing Professionals Blog at www.lib.usf.edu/writingprofessionals/ to read more!

Writing Professionals Blog



“On Writer-Centered, Non-Directive Consulting”