



USFWriting

April/May 2017

MONTHLY MESSAGE *from* THE STUDIO

This year we ended Spring semester a little different with our first annual writing center colloquium. Our goal with “Purpose, Process, Practice: ‘Disorganizing’ Writing Centers” was to explore areas in which writing centers are being or could be “disorganized,” in the spirit of Ben Rafoth’s philosophy. The event was a hit! Our colloquium took place on Friday, April 28th and featured presentations by Coordinators Annalise Mabe and myself, Jay Thompson, Consultant Will Forde-Mazrui, and Intern Tiana Coven. Presentations delved into how to make the writing center more inclusive through the use of online sessions, how to adjust policies to better accommodate consultation on multimodal assignments that are common

today, what writing centers can do to move toward embracing equality and promoting social justice, and how writing centers can or already are “queered,” according to queer theory. The presentations spurred extensive discussion among the audience, and we were especially happy to have representatives of Saint Leo University and Hillsborough Community College in attendance. We are very happy to end this school year with a new colloquium as it is in line with the many new workshops and initiatives we piloted this year. We look forward to growing this annual colloquium and cannot wait to see what our staff and the larger writing center community comes up with next year.

-Jay Thompson,
Co-Coordinator

#WritersofUSF



“Earlier this semester, we all had to write memoirs.”

“It was just supposed to be a moment in our lives. Like a chapter about 10 pages long.”

“I wrote about my high school best friend and how our relationship changed over time. Hers was just about one night, though.”

“And mine, too.”

“Writing about myself at such length was difficult, but I liked the opportunity to expand my writing experience with something new. We had to be precise with our thoughts, so it helped me really think about my past.”

“It will be interesting to go back in a few years and reread what we wrote.”

- Reba Cutler, Biomedical Sciences, Jessica Chatfield, Secondary English Education, Sara Martin, English, Desiree Massiah, Health Sciences

CONSULTANT QUIPS

[Quick Tips for Writers]

“Never underestimate the importance of brainstorming because it is an outlet for creativity. Doodling, making outlines, searching the web, or listening to music while typing, can help you develop or enhance any piece of writing.”

-GIULI

“Make sure your topic sentences are linked with your thesis statement. It helps make a more cohesive essay overall, and if a student is short on time, just correcting this one area often makes a big difference.”

-JENNIFER

“Concision, concision, concision! Whether you’re writing a research paper, crafting a dissertation, or piecing together a resume, try to say what you want to say in as few words as possible. Less is more!”

-SETH

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT:

IN PERSON

USF Tampa Library - 2nd Floor

BY PHONE

(813) 974-8293

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usf.edu/writing



#WritingConsultantsofUSF



“Last year, I was lucky to be selected as the first artist-at-sea resident with the Schmidt Ocean Institute and crossed the Pacific from Guam to Hawaii by ship. I had two weeks to plan and figure out how to bring everything I would need for two weeks at sea. I decided I wanted to test salinity through photography so that the photos would have a physical aspect to them. When I was getting ready to go, the chemical I wanted to use got confiscated by TSA. The film got lost and almost didn't make it, but it all worked out in the end. I built a dark room on board the ship, which was called The Falkore and had quotes from The Never-ending Story all over the place. The crew was forty, maybe fifty people from all over the world. I was only one of two Americans, so it was very international. Only, like, 10% of the sea is even mapped. It's such a big unknown. There were a few days when we had gale-force winds. I almost fell overboard trying to get a certain shot. When we got to Hawai'i, I developed the images. Most pictures were just of waves with horizons on all sides and massive color shifts. It was all vaguely psychedelic, which becomes descriptive of life at sea.”

- Leslie Reed, USF Writing Consultant

For Graduate Writers

“What is your advice for remaining inspired while writing your thesis for graduate school?”

“Staying motivated while writing a thesis or any other form of graduate writing requirement in order to receive a degree, is in itself an overwhelming task. In my personal experience, some of the things I did were to try to stay focused on the big picture and remember why I chose to go to graduate school in the first place. Getting out of your workplace/studyplace once in a while (especially during those last writing stages) is also a good idea, go socialize. Also, sleep and food sort of become overrated during this time, but my advice is to never underestimate how much these factors actually help your productivity. My last suggestion is to have fun with it. This is something that you're obviously passionate about and it is your opportunity to show everyone what you have to say about it.”

-Giuli, M.A.



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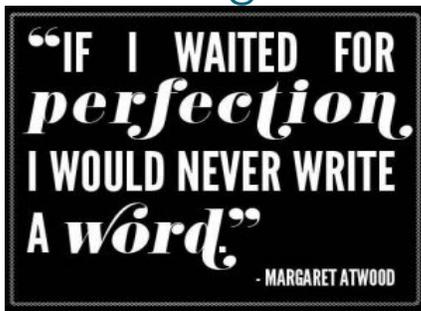
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Writers Blog



“How to Start Writing (Part 1)”
By: Joanna Bartell

Focusing primarily on the planning stages of writing, in this post, Dr. Joanna Bartell provides writers with strategies to fight through writer's block and start writing. She explains highly effective methods of brainstorming, outlining, and drafting to get writers on their way towards a well-organized paper. As Joanna writes, “starting something new can be difficult, and the blank screen is intimidating,” but with the strategies referenced such as free writing, mind mapping, outlining six times, and more, Dr. Joanna Bartell gives plenty of methods for writers to mix and match until they find the combination that is most effective for their needs.

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

Overall, the use of iPads to, as the Studio refers, “reimagine the way writing happens,” enhances not only writing consultation but writers' relationship with their own writing. iSessions provide a truly unique experience when approaching writing assignments.

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

Writing Professionals Blog



“iSessions: A Symbiotic Way of Writing”
By: Nilofer Bharwani