

University of Arizona

Writing Skills Improvement Program (WSIP)

Bi-Weekly Writing Workshops

WSIP offers four series of regular, 50-minute workshops throughout the fall and spring semesters. Attendance is **FREE of charge** for all UA undergraduates, graduates, staff, and faculty. Workshops are interactive and activity-based. Participants are encouraged to bring samples of their own writing to practice learned skills. **Register to attend at wsip.arizona.edu/workshop-series or call (520) 621-5849 with questions.**

THE CRAFT OF WRITING: This series will get you comfortable with generating ideas without worrying about how “perfect” the first draft is and with improving these first drafts in effective ways.
Mondays (see schedule below), 2:00-2:50 pm, AME S336
September 15: Getting Started: Brainstorming Past the Empty Page This workshop will cover strategies for moving through writer’s block and getting your ideas out on paper (or on your computer screen).
September 29: Knowing Your Audience so You Know How to Write In this workshop, we will engage in activities that help you identify your target audience(s) and in writing situations so that you can choose the appropriate format, appeals, tone/voice, vocabulary, etc.
October 13: Non-Evaluative Feedback for Peer Review Non-evaluative feedback provides a great deal of useful information to the writer in an environment of positive collaboration. It is strongly suggested that you bring two or three hard copies of a piece of writing to workshop.
October 27: Using Blogs and Online Discussion Sites for Class In this workshop, we will learn about reading and evaluating blog/online discussion entries and then responding to them thoughtfully and relevantly.
November 10: Revision: What It Really Is In this workshop, we will learn about breaking revision into separate and manageable components so that all aspects of your draft are addressed in depth. It is strongly recommended that you bring one piece of writing (either digital or paper) with you so that you can apply what you learn during the workshop.

INTRODUCTION TO SCHOLARLY WRITING: This series will introduce common elements of academic writing at the college level. We will engage in workshop activities to help strengthen writing skills in areas including analysis, development of a research process, and correct use of research material and reference styles.
Wednesdays (see schedule below), 2:00-2:50 pm, AME S336
September 17: Analysis: What is it? This workshop will introduce the difference between analysis and summary in writing and review strategies for ensuring that you are analyzing.
October 1: The Research Process We will practice writing techniques to stimulate research-oriented writing and the development of research questions.
October 15: Plagiarism and How to Avoid It In this workshop, we will learn and practice writing strategies to help you incorporate references and resources correctly and avoid plagiarism.
October 29: Introduction to Citation Styles This workshop will provide an overview of the basic guidelines for the MLA, APA, and Chicago/Turabian reference styles for academic writing.
November 12: Writing Cover Letters and Personal Statements In this workshop, we will discuss the purposes and styles for application cover letters and personal statements.

GRAMMAR AND STYLE: This series will address structural issues that all writers must consider. We will review Standard American English language rules and preferences in addition to common mistakes that writers make. We will practice ways to increase sentence fluency and fluidity and build academic vocabulary. This series is appropriate for English language learners as well as all writers who are working to strengthen their writing in general.
Mondays (see schedule below), 2:00-2:50 pm, AME S336
September 22: Playing with Punctuation Punctuation can be tricky! In this workshop, we will review and practice basic guidelines in order to understand how our use of punctuation can control the clarity, accuracy, and overall impact of our writing.
October 6: Recognizing Grammatical Error Patterns The purpose of this workshop is to refresh participants' understanding of Standard American English grammar and its application in academic writing.
October 20: Whittling Down Wordiness and Redundancy This workshop will introduce useful strategies for making writing concise and effective. We will practice reducing redundancy and wordiness.
November 3: Fluency: Sentence Length and Variation In this workshop, we will learn about various sentence structures and how to use them in academic writing. We will practice writing and editing texts to hone our skills in sentence development.
November 17: Enhancing Your Vocabulary In this workshop, we will discuss how to increase our academic vocabularies and practice our abilities to choose words wisely for use in scholarly sentences.

ADVANCED SCHOLARLY WRITING: This series will address various aspects of graduate and post-graduate level writing such as grant and research proposals, research organization and use, manuscript preparation, comprehensive exam preparation, and Curriculum Vitae creation and maintenance.
Wednesdays (see schedule below), 2:00- 2:50 pm, AME S336
September 24: Writing Effective Grant and Research Proposals Often, our research requires outside funding as well as detailed pre-planning. This is where various kinds of proposals become essential to the research process. In this workshop, we will learn steps we can take in order to write strong, persuasive grant and research proposals.
October 8: Annotated Bibliographies vs. Literature Reviews Both of these documents are important to advanced scholarly research; however, they are not the same. Here, we will learn about the forms of and uses for each document and practice techniques for becoming comfortable with writing them.
October 22: Preparing Manuscripts for Publication Different publication types and formats require different editorial choices from us as scholarly writers. In this workshop, we will learn about how to figure out what is expected of us in manuscript preparation, including resources we can go to for assistance.
November 5: Preparing for Your Comprehensive Exam/Prelims Some graduate degree programs require you to take intensive written and oral culminating exams before beginning the dissertation process. We will discuss various strategies for preparing for your exams, including developing reading lists, working with your advisor(s), reviewing and organizing your sources, and responding in writing to exam prompts.
November 19: Going on the Job Market: Your Curriculum Vitae One of the most important documents that you will prepare as a professional scholar is your curriculum vitae. In this workshop, we will learn about starting, organizing, developing, and updating your CV.