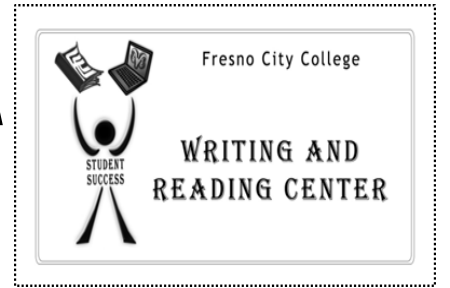


THE ROUGH DRAFT



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A Tutor's Perspective: Language Insecurity By: Carolina Mata

I am a Mexican-American, and I don't speak Spanish. When I started working at the Writing and Reading Center (WRC), I knew I would be tutoring people to learn English. So I figured that it wouldn't matter too much if I didn't speak Spanish; I would learn to work through any language barriers. There are many students that come into the WRC who don't know a lot of Eng-

lish, and I learned how to help them with the language

“After a long moment, I finally confessed that I felt stupid.”

barrier. However, I became nervous when I saw that one regular tutee worked with tutors who explained things to her in Spanish. I was scared because I wondered if I could

ever help her when I didn't know that language. Those other tutors seemed to be better for her and helped her immensely. I became insecure about whether I could do as good of a job just explaining things to her in English. So for my first semester working at the WRC, I watched as she worked with the tutors who spoke Spanish and was constantly fright-

Cont'd on pg. 2

Words of Wisdom By: Kathryn Robinson

“The more that you read, the more things that you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

– Dr. Seuss

I found this quote, or as I would like to call it words of wisdom, when I was scrolling through my Pinterest feed. It then hit me that Dr.

Seuss has some of the greatest and

Cont'd on pg. 3

Tutor's Perspective cont'd . . .

ened that one day I would have to work with her as well.

After a whole semester of not working with this student, one day she came up to me and asked if I could help her. Of course, I said yes, although I felt anxious. The first thing she asked me was if I spoke Spanish, and I replied that I did not. I asked her if she would like another tutor, but she said that I would be fine for her to work with. We went through the session the same way that I did with other tutees who didn't speak much English. I was careful with my words, I repeated certain things, and we went at a slow and easy pace. It was as to be expected. But the whole time I felt as if I was a disappointment because I couldn't explain things in Spanish and make the session go by faster for her. After our session was over, I couldn't help but apologize. I told her that I was Mexican but never spoke the language in the house. I was explaining my failure. I repeatedly said how sorry I was for not speaking Spanish and being able to help quicker. I felt as if I was less than she was, less Mexican.

What surprised me was the shock she showed at my apology. She told me I did not have a reason to be sorry, that she didn't need to hear more Spanish when she was trying to learn English, and that I did help her. I left that session feeling quite stunned. Here it was my job to assist the student, but the student had reassured me. It made me realize how a student must feel when they come into the WRC feeling nervous about not knowing the same language as the tutor, and how just a little bit of reassurance that it's ok could actually go a long way.

However, my reflection on language barriers didn't stop there. Now it has been two years, and I am still working with this regular tutee. Recently, we were in a session and talking about how her English has greatly improved, making me proud of her. She mentioned how she is proud of herself, since another language is difficult to learn. This is where I admitted that I could never learn Spanish, even though I tried for many years growing up. I explained how I bought books, tried to talk to family, and spent years struggling to remember

basic words, but it never stuck. She recommended I take a Spanish class to help, but I immediately said I couldn't do that. When she asked me why not, it took me a while to admit the reason. I wanted to cry. I felt it in my chest and my stomach. After a long moment, I finally confessed that I felt stupid. I felt that I should know Spanish, but I didn't. So I was stupid. I felt ashamed for being so stupid.

Looking back, I see it was a beautiful moment between a student and me. We related to each other over this experience. Soon after this conversation with the regular student, I had another session with another tutee who came into the WRC. The first thing she did when I sat down with her was explain how she didn't speak much English and apologized for her writing. It was déjà vu. Here, this new student was doing the same thing I had done two years ago with the regular tutee. She was explaining herself as if she had failed at something and needed to apologize. So I told her the story about me and that other student I had apologized to for not knowing Spanish.

Cont'd on page 6

Comic of the Month By Victor Chavez



Pirato, Dan. "A Caring Chat." Bizarro. Wordpress, 3 Apr. 2013. Web. 22 July 2015.

Pirato, Dan. "Uncommon Tuts." Bizarro. Wordpress, 3 Apr. 2013. Web. 22 July 2015.

Words of Wisdom cont'd . . .

most inspirational quotes of all time. This one, for example, can relate to a lot of us, especially since we are in college and learning all sorts of new information for our future careers. It may be challenging at times; however, we have to keep in mind that, "The more that you learn, the more places you'll

go." What we are doing here at Fresno City College is going to benefit our future tremendously. We are going to learn new things, meet new people, and work towards the future life that we want. As the new semester starts, it is important to have a positive mind set and to believe that you can and will

get through the semester. Like I said it may be difficult at times, but it will most definitely be worth it in the end. Here's to a great Fall 2015 semester!

Citation Spotlight

By Melody Kruse

MLA

Article on a Website:

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available on one date may no longer be available later. If a URL is required or you chose to include one, be sure to include the complete address for the site. (Note: The following examples do not include a URL because MLA no longer requires a URL to be included.) Remember to use *n.p.* if no publisher name is available and *n.d.* if no publishing date is given.

Example:

Kurtzleben, Danielle. "Is Hillary Clinton 'Likeable Enough?'" *It's all politics: political news from NPR*. National Public Radio. 23 July 2015. Web. 23 July 2015.

"Citing an Entire Website." *MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources*. Online Writing Lab. 2015. Web. 23 July 2015.

Article in a Periodical:

Cite by listing the article's author, putting the title of the article in quotation marks, and italicizing the periodical title. Follow with the date of publication. Remember to abbreviate the month. The basic format is as follows:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

Example:

Kaling, Mindy. "Unicorns are Real." *Rainbow Magazine* 2 July 2015: 3-17. Print.

"Article in a Magazine." *MLA Works Cited: Periodicals*. Online Writing Lab. 2015. Web. 23 July 2015.

Citation Spotlight cont'd

APA

Article on a Website:

List as much of the following information as possible (you sometimes have to hunt around to find the information; don't be lazy. If there is a page like <http://www.somesite.com/somepage.htm>, and [somepage.htm](http://www.somesite.com/somepage.htm) doesn't have the information you're looking for, move up the URL to <http://www.somesite.com/>)

Example:

Kurtzleben, D. (July 23 2015). Is Hillary Clinton Likable Enough? Retrieved from <http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/07/23/425385484/is-hillary-clinton-likable-enough>

Online Writing Lab. (2015). Non-periodical Web Document or Report. Retrieved from

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>

Article in a Periodical:

APA style dictates that authors are named last name followed by initials; publication year goes between parentheses, followed by a period. The title of the article is in sentence-case, meaning only the first word and proper nouns in the title are capitalized. The periodical title is run in title case, and is followed by the volume number which, with the title, is also italicized. If a DOI has been assigned to the article that you are using, you should include this after the page numbers for the article. If no DOI has been assigned and you are accessing the periodical online, use the URL of the website from which you are retrieving the periodical.

Example:

Kaling, M. (2015). Unicorns are real. *Rainbow Magazine*, 1(2), 3-17.

Online Writing Lab. (2015). Article in a Magazine. Retrieved from

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/>

Tutor's Perspective cont'd...

I even told her how I almost cried in the session for feeling so stupid because I didn't speak the language. Immediately she relaxed, and we started the session. She seemed surprised that I would understand her feelings of inadequacy, but in reality, all of the tutors can relate to the fear of not being able to communicate what they want.

It's a natural thing to want to speak your mind and have other people understand what you are thinking and feeling. Attending college means communicating with countless people every day. When we feel that we can't say what we would like to, there is fear that we will look like a fool. I've come to realize that while working at the WRC. Now when a student comes in who is still learning English, I tell them

immediately that everything is ok because I know how insecure they feel. Students may not realize this because they come into the Writing and Reading Center feeling as if the tutors are somehow smarter or better than they are, but it's not true in the least bit. We go through the same feelings of inadequacy. Sometimes the tutors are just as insecure about language barriers as the tutees.

The Riddler

By: Richard Flores

What asks but never answers?
What are two things you never eat for breakfast?
What is orange and sounds like a parrot?

Answers from The Riddler in July 2015

A box without hinges, key or lid. But inside a golden treasure is hid. (Egg).

Alive without breath; as cold as death;
never thirsty, ever drinking;
all in mail, ever clinking.
(Fish).

What has roots nobody sees,
is taller than trees, up, up, up
it goes, and yet never grows?
(Mountain).

Tutee of the Month: Elena Bojorquez Gallo

This month the Writing and Reading Center (WRC) would like to congratulate Elena Bojorquez Gallo for her excellent progress in her reading, writing, and English language. She has visited the WRC on a regular basis for a few years and many tutors have noticed her growth. Elena's English is much better; she understands the language and can express herself in English. She also understands her reading assignments without much help from a tutor, and she has remembered the grammar and punctuation rules with her writing. When Elena came to us for the first time, she had trouble putting together a sentence, but now can organize her thesis statement, topic sentences, and paragraphs on her own. Often times, Elena comes into the WRC just to work independently on her homework and receive a proof-read from a tutor. Several tutors in the WRC have noticed how Elena Bojorquez Gallo works incredibly hard to excel at every assignment given to her and pass all of her classes. It is because of this hard work and persistence that we at the Writing and Reading Center would like to take this time to acknowledge this tutee and say how proud we are of her progress.

Meet the Tutors

Shushanek Silvas

Shushanek Silvas is a supervisor in the Writing and Reading Center at Fresno City College. She is also a professor of English at Fresno City College. This fall she will be teaching English 1A as part of the Camino Program at Fresno City College while continuing to supervise in the WRC. Shushanek also teaches tutor training and coordinates the Essential Skills workshops at FCC. Currently, Shushanek is occupied with the implementation of the Online Writing Center. She is happy to report the OWC is up and running! Shushanek received her B.A in psychology and her M.A. in English composition and literature. She is currently a PhD candidate in Education with an emphasis in higher education leadership. Her research focuses on adjunct faculty and the role of transformational leadership as a means to increase followers' psychological safety and leader-follower attachment to enhance adjunct faculty's institutional cohesion. She is a member of the honor society Kappa Delta Pi and the Golden Key honor society. When she is not working or writing, Shushanek enjoys reading, playing the piano, cuddling with her two shih tzus, and boating with her husband and daughters.



Athena Keobounnam

Athena Keobounnam is a second year at Fresno City College. Her major is currently Business Administration and she hopes to transfer into that major at Fresno State in the Fall of 2016. Her goals are to receive a bachelor's at Fresno State and go forward into a master's program at UC Davis. Aside from being an English tutor at the Writing and Reading Center, she is a member of the Fresno City College's Women's Water Polo Team, president of Laotian Student Association, and a member of the Leon S. Peters Honor's Program. Outside of school, Athena loves to read, watch movies and television shows, and swim!

Meet the Tutors Cont'd...



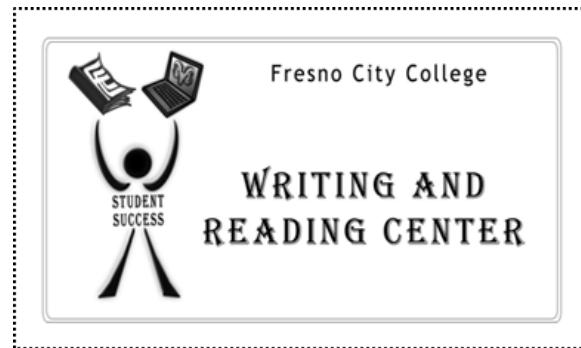
Kathryn Robinson

My name is Kathryn Robinson, and I have worked for the WRC for about 6 months. This is my third year here at Fresno City College, and I plan to graduate in the Spring 2016 semester. I am a part of the Leon S. Peters Honors program here at Fresno City College, and my major is nursing. My dreams are to transfer to Fresno State and hopefully be a part of their nursing program. After I finish college, I hope to work at Valley Children's Hospital in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) as a nurse practitioner. Outside of school and working at the WRC, I also work at Jamba Juice as a Team Lead. Other things that I enjoy doing include: traveling to the coast, spending quality time with my family, boyfriend and friends, and going shopping.



Catherine (Cat) Evangelho—Congratulations on continuing your education!

Cat has been a WRC tutor for six great months! She recently finished her first year at FCC where she was a member of the Leon S. Peters Honors Program and a participant in the fantastic theatre program. She performed as an Italian air hostess in the 1960's farce, *Boeing Boeing*, and directed a 10-minute play in the *Teasers* play festival here at City. This fall, Cat will be attending a performing arts conservatory and will be immersed in theatre. However, she will continue to major in English Literature when she returns. She hopes to also receive her graduate degree in English Lit or Ancient Latin and teach one of the two as a career. Cat also enjoys dogs and hiking.



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Jennifer Wells and Carolina Mata

The Writing & Reading Center

WHERE READING AND WRITING ARE THE FOCUS.

The Writing & Reading Center (WRC) assists Fresno City College students of all abilities and levels with reading and writing assignments across the curriculum, as well as time management and college study skills; we strive to help students attain success in their classes by helping them to improve their writing and reading skills. The WRC is located in the Tutorial Center (LI-134) mezzanine, towards the back.