



The Rough Draft

PERSPECTIVES PIECE: THE POWER OF A WORD

By Melody Kruse

Writing for me is a therapeutic process. There is something about getting the words out of my brain to live on paper instead of simply continuing to fester in my mind, begging to be written. The power of words is fascinating to me. I love how we use words in our everyday life, and what we say and how we say it matters because it communicates a level of connection to others. Words are a bridge that connect humans to each other. Writing starts to build that bridge.

At the Writing and Reading Center, we talk about the process of revision. I have met with students and talked about the importance of revising many times to get a polished draft. So often we have students come in who want to rush through their papers, get it proofread and be done. They want the WRC checked off of their list of things to do, and possibly receive extra credit from their teacher for coming in. Yet, we also have seen students who do come in ready to engage the organic process of writing and it is beautiful. I love it when students sit with a tutor from the very beginning of the process, the brainstorming stage, and simply dream. It is always a joy to watch students move through the different steps of brainstorming, dreaming, drafting, and revising. I love watching students step into their work, try it on for size, and change it if it doesn't fit right.

Sometimes writing is like trying on multiple outfits to get the one that fits. Ann Lamott says: "Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere." And we do. We have to start recognizing that our first drafts may not be the end result, but that is okay. Through writing, I learn so much about accepting myself. Writing gives me the chance to write, and rewrite. It also helps me learn that I can accept each draft of myself, and each draft of my character as part of the growing process.

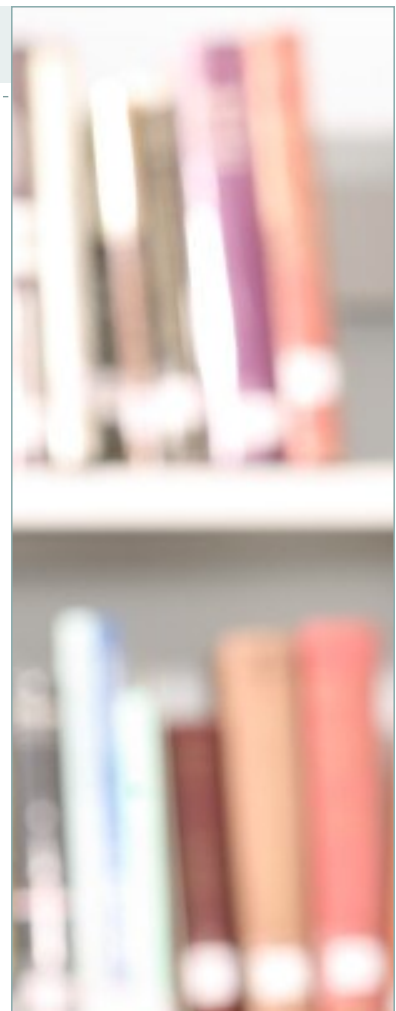
So, let's write.

WORDS OF WISDOM

By Brice Nakamura

Every semester, I take some time during class to let my students get to know me a little bit. I have them ask me questions via email, and I compile a list to answer them in class. A question I get quite often is "what advice do you have for a college freshman?" One of the best pieces of advice that I have ever received is that "nobody knows all the right answers, but smart people know where to find them."

I have found this advice to be very helpful in my tutoring. As a tutor, you are knowledgeable in writing essays—and now your task is to help others, and be able to give answers to their questions. I'm going to let you in on a little secret: you don't have to hold all the answers in your head. You don't have to memorize the MLA handbook;



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WORDS OF WISDOM CONTINUED

even professors don't do that. As long as you know where to find the answers and can produce them for the student, you will be helping them just as effectively as someone who knows that information. So next time a tutee asks you for the answer to some obscure (or maybe not so obscure) question, don't be afraid to say something like "you know, it's been a little while since I tutored that, let me go grab the handbook and we'll find the answer there. I want to make sure I'm giving you the right answer." This sets the tutee at ease knowing that the answer will come right from the rulebook, and gives you an opportunity to look for the answer (which you will probably remember next time).

As a society, we evaluate ourselves by how much knowledge we can hold in our heads at one time, and I think that this is a completely wrong way of looking at what someone "knows." Quizzes, exams, etc are all only a picture frame of what you knew for an hour's time in a class, not what you have known for a whole semester. Information is a tool that you use to complete tasks—and I am more interested in what you can do with that tool to produce writing. There is no MLA formatting quiz in my class, because memorizing that information is pointless when it is freely available on numerous websites. I think that we need to take this advice to heart—that knowing where the answer can be found is more important than whether that location happens to be your head.

"I'm going to let you in on a little secret: you don't have to hold all the answers in your head."



GRAMMAR BYTES

By Nicolas Quintana

The serial comma, which is often referred to as the Oxford comma, is needed in academic writing when listing items. It was started by Oxford University Press, but it is often no longer used by British writers or publications that use the Associate Press (AP) guidelines. The AP guidelines do recommend that writers use a comma if a sentence needs clarification, but it is okay to omit a comma in a simple list. Styles such as MLA, APA, and Chicago suggest using a comma before the last item.

Example: I had apple juice, an English muffin, and eggs. (Oxford Comma)
I had apple juice, an English muffin and eggs. (No Oxford comma)

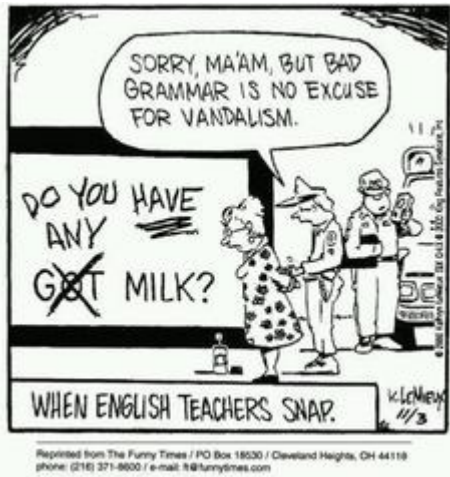
COMICS OF THE MONTH

By Rebekah Olson

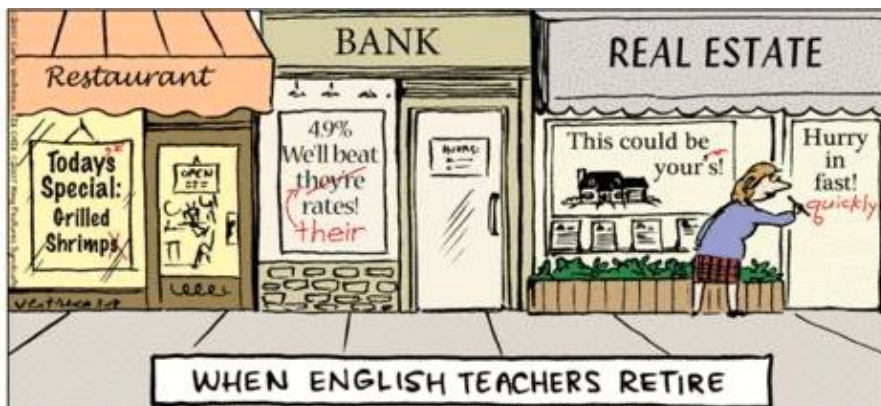


"It's still just grammar, but now they think it's cool."

"Education Cartoon #6736" Mark Anderson. 2015. Web. 29 October 2015.



"When English Teachers Snap." WordPress.org. 25



"When English Teachers Retire." WordPress.org. 10 December 2012. Web. 29 October 2015.





WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

By Vereak Than

Arbitration -- the hearing and settlement of a dispute or difference by a chosen judge.

Ex: Unable to refute the charges, the defendant accepted the outcome of the arbitration and was executed the next day.

Iconoclast -- One who works to destroy tightly held beliefs, traditional institutions, and/or revered symbols and imagery.

Ex: Disillusioned and world-weary, the once proud supporter now found himself rallied against his old masters, an iconoclast to his former institutions.

Dissonance -- A harsh dissimilarity or incongruity.

Ex: The brazen dissonance in treatment between the two parties created a divide as animosities grew.

Venerate -- To regard with deep respect and awe.

Ex: They venerate the martyr like an ascendant god, praying at his cold feet and offering sacrifices in his name.

TUTEE OF THE MONTH

By Hector Tapia

The tutee that we, the WRC, believe deserves the "Tutee of the Month", is Victoria Duren. The reason why we believe she deserves this is because she is constantly in the WRC getting reviews for her work. Her passion and drive to achieve a better academic grade truly moves us. We have gotten to know Victoria as a regular in the center, not only for her bubbly personality but because of her pure ambition that she shows with every session she is in. Due to her hard work and constant efforts in her academia, we would all like to congratulate her as our months Tutee of the month, keep on striving for the best Victoria!!

WELCOME THE NEW TUTORS



Isaiah Rubio



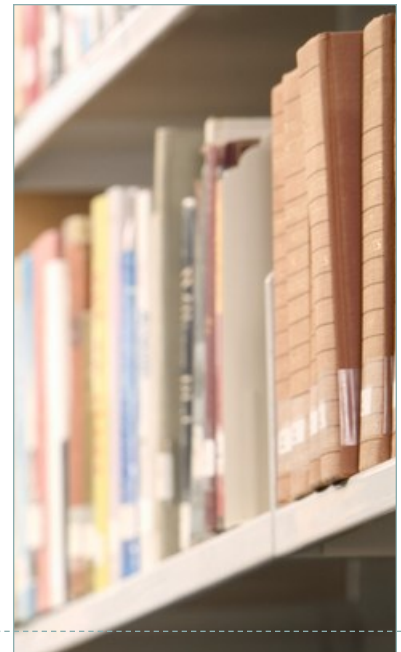
Vereak Than

MEET THE STAFF/TUTORS



Brice Nakamura: I have been working as a supervisor at the Writing Center for a year and a half, and I have been a tutor for several years. I went to Reedley College for 3 semesters, and then transferred to Fresno State, where I received my Bachelor's in English in 2010, and my Master's degree in English Composition in 2013. My Master's Thesis focused on teaching video games in a first year writing course. I teach developmental and transfer levels of English at Reedley College and

College of the Sequoias, and I love teaching about interesting topics such as food, love, and education. I serve on a number of committees and am involved in initiatives across multiple campuses, including the Common Assessment Initiative, First Year Experience classes, the Student Equity Committee, Upward Bound, and the California Acceleration Project. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time playing video games with my wife or practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.



Come to the Writing and Reading Center to get help in any stage of the writing process!

CITATION SPOTLIGHT

By Jennifer Wells

Does your instructor need you to include in-text citations to your assignment, but you don't know how to do that? No fear! Here are some quick little tips on writing in-text citations for both MLA and APA style papers.

MLA: For MLA, in-text citation rules vary on the source (online, print, etc.). Whatever sources you use within your paper, it **MUST** be cited in the Works Cited page as well.

The author's name and page number should usually if not always be present in the sentence you are writing.

Example: Fitzgerald stated that "Everybody's youth is a dream, a form of chemical madness" (114).

If there is no listed author, you will need to include a short title of the source you used in the parentheses with quotation marks.

Example: We see a lot of flashing lights "gleaming across the state once every few years . . ." ("Made-Up Book" 45).

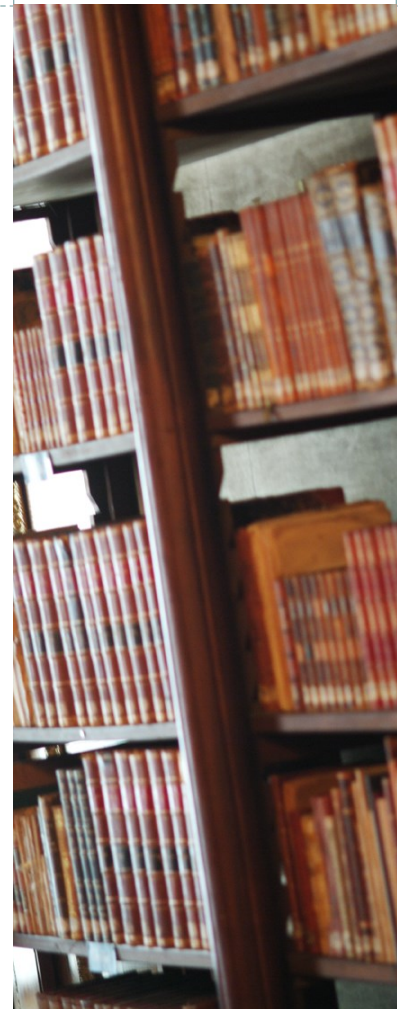
APA: For APA, it is crucial to include both the author's name and the date their work was published in every in-text citation source.

If you citing a short quote, be sure to include the author, publication date, and the page number for reference.

Example: Gonzales (2015) wrote in her novel, "This is an effective way to blow-dry your hair" (p. 234).

If you are not using the author's name in the signal phrase, then you will need to include it in parentheses after the quote. Example: ". . . the research was proven" (Gonzales, 2015).

If there is no known author, you will use the same method as MLA but using the shortened title and publication date. Be sure to include a complete reference in the References page at the end of your paper.



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.

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MEET THE STAFF/TUTORS CONTINUED



My name is Rebekah Olson and I have been working in the WRC since Spring semester 2015. I am a Business Administration student at Fresno City College and plan to transfer to CSU Stanislaus in the Fall of 2016. When I graduate I dream of attending culinary school and opening my own small bakery on the East coast. I love working in the WRC and getting the opportunity to meet so many interesting people, and see them improve their work more and more every time they come in. Outside of school and work I like to watch way too many television shows, go to the movies, exercise, blog, and listen to music.



Hello, my name is Isaiah Rubio and I have been going to Fresno City College off and on for about 5 years now. Having just declared English as my major, my goal is to get into a graduate program and get my Masters. Besides reading, and writing, on my spare time, I enjoy the arts and I love what people have to say. I have an unhealthy obsession with The Simpsons and music. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and I am always looking for the next strike of inspiration for my side projects. Hopefully, I will be able to transfer to Fresno State by the 2016 Fall Semester.



My name is Vereak Than. I am currently studying at Fresno City College and am double majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Engineering and science. Though I wish to make my start at a major company such as Boeing or Lockheed, my real goal is to establish an entity of my own in the defense industry. Aside from that, there isn't much to say. I'm a fairly average person and my interests range from architecture, woodworking to music and bushcraft. I'm partial to Art Nouveau and enjoy using my ax.

