

# The Rough Draft

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Perspectives Piece	1
Words of Wisdom	1
Words of Wisdom (cont.)	2
Citation Spotlight	2
Grammar Bytes	2
Comic of the Month	3
Meet the Tutors	3
Words of Knowledge	4
Meet the Tutors (cont.)	5
Grammar Bytes (cont.)	5
Staff	5



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

## Perspectives Piece: Learning Patience

By Zurisadai Hernandez-Cruz

Often times, students arrive at the Writing and Reading Center frustrated because they have been assigned a book that they think is boring or difficult to understand. It amazes me how being a tutor has forced me, and later encouraged me, to the point of it becoming pleasurable, to expand my reading abilities. Many students might think that, as tutors, we do not have any difficulties with reading and writing. The truth is that reading was a huge challenge during my high school years and first years at Fresno City. It was not until the beginning of 2015 that I really began to endure the frustration I felt when I sat down to read a book. The reason for my frustration is that I did not know the meaning of many of the words and phrases I read. I felt it was too much of a dull and long task to write down words I was unfamiliar with in order to remember them. I was extremely critical of myself for not being a fast reader. I am sharing my experience so

students can realize that it's okay if reading is difficult, frustrating, or seems like something that cannot be enjoyable. Just like any other obstacle, it can be overcome with patience, perseverance and practice. Often times, many students, myself included, have forgotten that reading and writing must be practiced and that natural talent is awesome. As Margaret Atwood mentioned, "Reading and writing, like everything else, improve with practice. And, of course, if there are no young readers and writers, there will shortly be no older ones."

I am very grateful for working at the Writing and Reading Center because when students need help with a piece I do not imagine myself capable of understanding, as a tutor, I cannot tell them, "Sorry, but I do not feel like reading, or I do not understand." Instead, it has encouraged me to challenge myself and sit through readings, to the point where I

read with much more enjoyment and pleasure. Students I have tutored have taught me so much with every piece we read or think about together, and to extend the patience I have towards them to my own self. I encourage students whom visit the Writing and Reading Center to be more patient with themselves while reading, writing, or facing any other academic obstacle.

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## Words of Wisdom

By Hector Tapia

"Until you're ready to look foolish, you'll never have the possibility of being great," or, "If you really want something you can figure out how to make it happen," are two of my personal favorite quotes

from Cher. I personally feel that these two quotes can relate so much to academia itself; hopefully, you will, too.

College can be an extreme stress for anyone, ranging from a multitude of reasons such as: work, family, homework,

grades, and the list goes on and on. However, I don't feel that a major bump in the road should derail one from completely avoiding the assignment. After working in the WRC for a year now, I have been exposed to a handful of students who simply "throw in the towel."

## Words of Wisdom (cont.)

*“Always remember, no matter how hard a subject is to you, don’t allow that to hinder you and your success.”*

Writing, on any subject, requires one to make mistakes because NO ONE is a “natural” in any subject. One must attempt to make a fool of oneself in order to achieve that feeling of success. As my mom always said, “Even if life throws you on your behind, you dust it off and try again.”

Another thing I have noticed by working in the WRC is that satisfying feeling of seeing my peers strive for success. I have seen many students come in with pure determination to

accomplish a task with an A. Whether his motive is his personal goal or simply the fear of not passing the class, the student is doing everything in his power to achieve what he wants.

Working at the WRC has really opened my eyes because I have now been exposed to so many determined individuals in the FCC student body. Always remember, no matter how hard a subject is to you, don’t allow that to hinder you and your success. Please use all the

available resources at your disposal, and even if you fall, it is OKAY; simply get back on the horse and try again. I really hope to see you this spring. Good luck to you all in your endeavors!

## Citation Spotlight

By Rebekah Olson

### Citing entire website in MLA:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation or update (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

**ex:** *The King Center*. JPMorgan Chase & Co, 2014. Web. 11 Feb 2016.

### Citing a Youtube video in MLA:

Author’s Name or Poster’s Username. “Title of Image or Video.” Media Type Text. *Name of Website*. Name of Website’s Publisher, date of posting. Medium. Date retrieved.

**ex:** AdeleVEVO. "Adele - Hello." Online Video Clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 22 Oct 2015. Web. 19 Jan 2016.

## Grammar Bytes

Capitalization

By: Tabitha Harrington

The proper uses of capital letters are as follows:

1. The first words of a sentence

Example: When he tells a joke, he sometimes forgets the punch line.

2. The pronoun "I"

Example: The last time I visited Atlanta was several years ago.

3. Proper nouns (the names of specific people, places, organizations, and sometimes things)

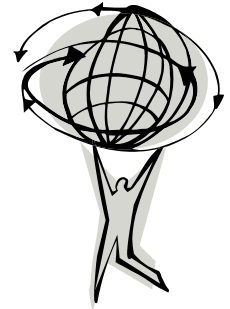
Example: Fresno City College

4. Family relationships (when used as proper names)

Example: Here is a present I bought for Mother.

When you are not using the family relationship as a proper name, there is no need for capitalization.

Comic of the Month



Callas, Maria. *Brace Yourself. Your Son is in a Comma.* Faxyo, 2013. Web.



Bill, Cidu. *Comics I Don't Understand.* Star Nine, 2015. Web. 14 Jan. 2016.

## Meet the Tutors



Jonah Schneider: My name is Jonah Schneider, and this is my first semester working as a tutor in the Writing and Reading Center. I am a part of the Leon S. Peters Honors Program here at Fresno City College. I am majoring in Film, and I plan to transfer to USC, so I can learn how to film movies and TV shows. Working at the WRC is amazing because I believe that having a welcoming place for students to get help with their writing is very important, and I am happy to be a part of that. In my free time, I enjoy playing games, listening to music, and reading.

# Words of Knowledge

By Molly Calloway

**Lugubrious** – adj – mournful, dismal, or gloomy, especially in an affected, exaggerated, or unrelieved manner

Example: Coco indulged in lugubrious behavior by staring at the last dregs of tea collected at the bottom of her mug, sighing in an over exaggerated manner, and glancing around the room to draw others' attention to her situation.

**Negate** – verb – to deny the existence, evidence, or truth of

Example: Students only harm themselves when they negate the information they are provided because they do not like the professor sharing it.

**Tepid** – adj – moderately warm, lukewarm, or characterized by a lack of force or enthusiasm

Example: His tepid demeanor betrayed to his audience how little he wanted to be in front of them, giving a presentation on workplace safety.

**Nemesis** – noun – an opponent or rival whom a person cannot best or overcome; something that a person cannot conquer or achieve

Example: Ben may have despised the office stapler, but his true nemesis was the unknown coworker who kept leaving it with one solitary staple left.

**Archipelago** – noun – A large group or chain of islands

Example: The largest of an archipelago of islands, Santorini is the vestige of a single volcanic landmass that erupted around 1600 BC.

## Test Your Knowledge

Fill in the blank with the words above.

Coco had just dropped a fresh tea bag into a \_\_\_\_\_ mug of water when she heard, from the next room over, an abrupt and \_\_\_\_\_ shriek. Ben stormed into the break room seconds later. "You!" he bellowed.

"Me?" Coco inquired, attempting to \_\_\_\_\_ whatever Ben's accusatory tone was accusing her of, but Ben would not be swayed. Slowly, he raised his hand to eye level, and clenched between his stubby fingers was one lone staple. Coco froze, eyes wide, mouth twisted in a grimace of fear.

"It was you." Ben's voice quaked with rage. "All of these years, and it was you." Lukewarm tea slopped onto Ben's shirt, and Coco was out of the door before her mug shattered on the break room floor. In the following few weeks, many employees developed theories about where she had fled to, the most popular being a remote \_\_\_\_\_ in the southern hemisphere.

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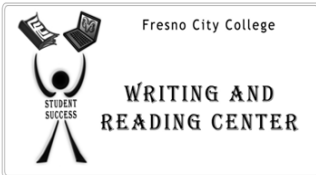
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## Meet the Tutors (cont.)



Phillip Sullivan: My name is Phillip Sullivan, and I am not a magician. Once upon a time, I wanted to become a magician, but then I received my first magic set one fateful Christmas morning. On that sorrowing Christmas morning, I learned that magicians are illusion artists, and as a result, I lost all desire within to become a magician when I grow up. If I ever grow up, I want to become an author, and it has been that way from the time I found out magicians are mere illusion artists. I have always loved fantasy, and my goal in life is to be able to create magic through my writing. Magic is my fantasy; writing is my fancy.



Marisol Trujillo: My name is Marisol Trujillo. I have been attending Fresno City College for 2 years, and my major is Psychology. I became a tutor because I love helping people, and I know that this will be an extremely rewarding experience. I love to dance and read whenever I have the chance.

## Grammar Bytes (cont.)

- The names of countries, nationalities, and specific languages  
Example: Costa Rica
- The first word in a sentence that is a direct quote  
Example: Emerson once said, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."
- The major words in the titles of books, articles, and songs (but not short prepositions or the articles "the," "a," or "an," if they are not the first word of the title)

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