

The Rough Draft

Perspective Piece by Catalina Chicas

I would have never thought I'd be working as a tutor. When I decided to go around the school looking for jobs, I hadn't thought about tutoring because I didn't believe I was intellectually capable of being one. Only a year ago, I moved back to the United States from Mexico, and I did not feel comfortable with the language yet. Well, I applied for the job, but just because another student had encouraged me to do so. To my surprise, the first center to contact me was the Writing and Reading Center (WRC). I was in shock! English had never been my strongest subject. One of the supervisors and I set up a date for my interview and a few weeks later, I was hired. So many feelings flooded me in that moment: excitement, surprise, anxiety, nervousness, and doubt. I doubted my ability to tutor because I still felt like I had a language barrier, but actually being a tutor has shown me otherwise.

Now, to put things into perspective, my first language is English, but I spent my middle school and high school years living in Mexico. The primary language in Mexico is Spanish, so all of my schoolwork, papers, notes, books, and any other forms of reading or writing were in Spanish. It was beneficial for me to learn Spanish fluently, but that created some issues with my English, or so I thought. The experience of helping other people, specifically some that speak 2 or more languages, has helped me learn so much about the language.

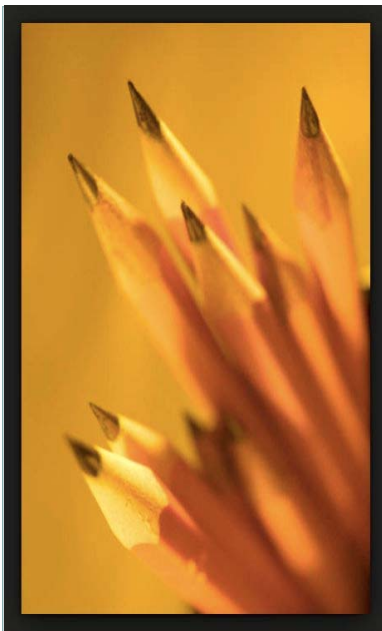
I am very thankful for the people that come in to the WRC. Each person has a different struggle, and this has shown me that I'm not alone. Many times I can relate to students when they say they are thinking in one language and trying to say something to me in another. It makes total sense to me because I do the same thing. Sometimes I want to explain something in English, but the Spanish words are the ones coming to my mind. I also enjoy explaining things in Spanish to some of our multilingual students, because it gives me some freedom to choose what language to speak in, that way we can find a way to understand new ideas.

This goes to show that even people who are fluent in more than one language struggle. We deal with thinking in two languages and sometimes both. We also have to learn all the grammar concepts of each language and try to not confuse them. But being a bilingual person creates an environment to learn more from. Like everything, tutoring has its ups and downs, but in my experience this job has been one of the best ways for me to develop and better my English.



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INSTANT STUDY SKILLS

- SIT AS CLOSE TO THE INSTRUCTOR AS YOU CAN.
- REVIEW PREVIOUS CLASS NOTES
- COPY EVERYTHING ON THE BOARD, REGARDLESS.
- TRY TO FIND A FIXED PLACE TO STUDY AND DO NOTHING BUT STUDY.
- BEFORE YOU BEGIN AN ASSIGNMENT, WRITE DOWN ON A SHEET OF PAPER WHEN YOU EXPECT TO FINISH.

WORDS OF WISDOM

By: Caroline Mata

“He who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions.”

— Confucius

For this month's Words of Wisdom, I have chosen to turn to Confucius for guidance. This may be a centuries-old quote, but it still stands today. Confucius knew what he was talking about, and with these words of wisdom, he is saying that not one person can know everything. Life is about being forever faced with questions and challenges, many of them new. Because of this, it is near impossible for anyone to have all the answers and solutions for every situation. This is normal.

As Confucius reminds us above, only those who do not face questions and challenges hold every answer. This is impossible, as everyone faces obstacles and is given questions daily. If people were to believe they have all the answers, they are either lying to themselves or are not questioned and challenged regularly.

This is especially true for stu-

dents, especially first time college students and those who are returning to school after many years. Every day, students find themselves in situations where they do not have the answers and this is frightening. However, Confucius reassures us that this is a part of life. That is why overwhelming situations need to be looked at as a learning experience—a chance to find the answers and not give into fear.

Here at Fresno City College, there are many resources available to students when questions arise like the Tutorial Center, the Writing and Reading Center, the library, counselors, and even teachers. Seeking help and using resources is the first step to finding answers. As reminded above, not one person has all the answers for every question, and that is not only expected—it is okay.

TUTEE OF THE MONTH

By Bruno Nagel

I would like to recognize Mark Cardona's dedication. He is always eager to learn and works hard. I've seen him tackle rigorous vocabulary words, so I would suggest others ask him for help when looking for synonyms or definitions. I am also impressed by his ability to plan ahead and organize his time to ensure he completes his assignments. Time management is often the biggest challenge we face as college students, but clearly Mark has the discipline to be successful. During our tutoring sessions, he takes the lead and his positive attitude eases our collaboration. We thank him for his good nature.

GRAMMAR BYTES: COMMA RULES

By Thu Nyguen

The comma is an important punctuation mark that helps readers have a better understanding about the connection in a sentence. When commas are needed, they have to be put in the right place, otherwise, the meaning of the sentence can be unclear or even changed.

We use a comma:

1. Before a coordinating conjunction joining independent clauses.

Example: I am reading, and he is playing.

2. After an introductory phrase or an adverbial clause.

Examples: Before the exam, I drank a big cup of coffee.

Coming to the WRC, I received a lot of help from those nice tutors.

3. Between items in a series.

Example: You need a scantron, a pencil, and a calculator for the exam.

4. Between coordinate adjectives not joined with “and.”

Incorrect: The kind, brown dog followed me home.

Correct: The *kind, loyal* dog followed me home.

*Note: Not all adjectives are coordinate (i.e., equal or parallel). To know if adjectives are coordinate, we can either join them with “and” (The kind and loyal dog) or switch their order (The loyal, kind dog).

5. To separate nonessential modifiers and non-essential appositives.

Examples:

Nonessential modifiers: John Frank, who is coaching the team, was promoted today.

Nonessential appositive: Thomas Edison, an American inventor, was born in Ohio.

6. After an interjection (a word or phrase used to express surprise, shock, pain, etc.)

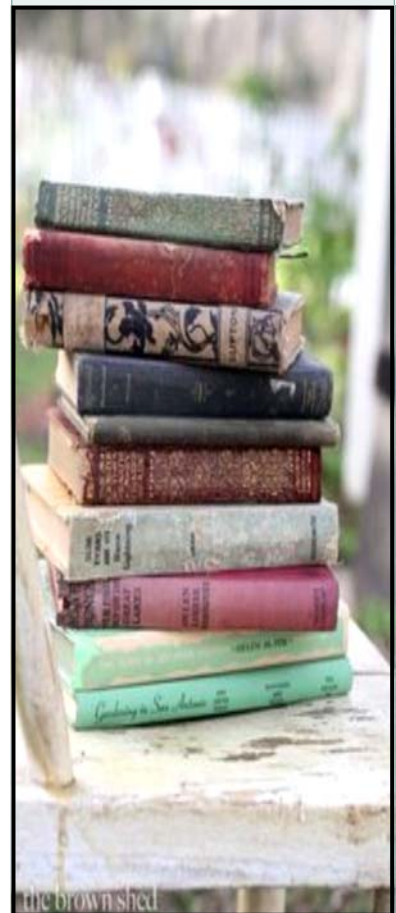
Examples: Wow, you look awesome in that dress!

7. To separate expressions such as “he said,” “she asked” if they come between a sentence of a quote

Examples: “I’m sorry,” she said, “but this is a phone-free area.”

8. Other uses:

- After “yes” or “no”: Yes, I am going to see a tutor right now.
- Direct address: You, *Mike*, are a very good friend.
- Interrogative tags: You know how to write a thesis, right?
- Contrast: You are my friend, not my enemy.
- Date: September 2, 1945 is Vietnam’s Independence Day.
*Note: We can write September 2, 1945 or 2 September 1945 (the second one does *not* have a comma).
- Address: We have a meeting at 1101 E. University Avenue, Fres-





GRAMMAR BYTES CONTINUED

- Address: We have a meeting at 1101 E. University Avenue, Fresno, California.
- Title: John Smith, Ph. D., will be visiting your class today.

ATI TEAS Secret Study Guide.
Mometrix Media, 2016



COMIC OF THE MONTH (SELECTED BY CAROLINE MATA)



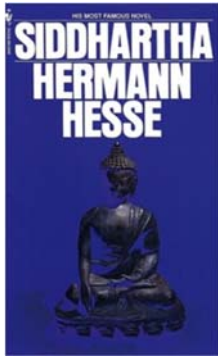
The King. "Tuesday's Top Ten Comics on Grammar and Wordplay." *The Comics*

Kingdom Blog, 8 Sept 2015, <http://comicskingdom.com/blog/2015/09/08/>

[tuesday-s-top-ten-comics-on-grammar-and-wordplay](http://comicskingdom.com/blog/2015/09/08/tuesday-s-top-ten-comics-on-grammar-and-wordplay).

BOOK CORNER

By Jonah Schneider



Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

Everyone wants to find some sort of meaning in their lives. *Sid-*

dhartha is a book written in 1922 that tells the story of one man's journey towards enlightenment. The book follows the main character, Siddhartha, who leaves the prince-like lifestyle he grew up with, to travel various lands looking for a way to attain enlightenment with his good friend, Govinda. They spend years trying different methods, from making a lot of money to living in poverty and studying under several different teachers, none of which work for Siddhartha. Eventually, Govinda and Siddhartha are separated and Siddhartha finds enlightenment in being a ferryman. You start to feel as if you are actually spending a lot of time with these characters and experiencing the journey with them. The novel is easy to understand and has concepts that are still seen and applied in most people's lives. *Siddhartha* is a timeless novel about a spiritual journey to find value and meaning in life.



Eragon by Christopher Paolini

One of the reasons that people read books is that they like to be transported

to other worlds. *Eragon* is the first book in a series that takes place in a world similar to that of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. A farm boy named Eragon finds a blue stone that turns out to be a dragon egg, and it sends him on an adventure that will send him travelling across the continent, facing dangerous creatures, and finding answers behind his past. The language of the series is easily understandable with the exception of words that originate from the book's own ancient language. However, translations often accompany these words and phrases so it should not take away from understanding the events that are taking place. *Eragon* is a must-read for those who wish for a book that will take them to a world different from ours.



INSTANT STUDY SKILLS CONTINUED

- FLIP THROUGH YOUR READING OR YOUR ASSIGNMENT QUICKLY BEFORE YOU GO ON TO SOMETHING ELSE.
- NEVER HIGHLIGHT AN ENTIRE SENTENCE.
- ON AN ESSAY TEST, BE NEAT!

Taken from The Fresno City College Writing and Reading Center (LI-134) July 2014
fccwise.fresnocitycollege.edu

CITATION SPOTLIGHT

By Orion Fitzhenry

When it comes to print sources, the newest edition of MLA format has eliminated all but the most essential information when it comes to the works cited page. Now the only information needed is the author, title, publisher, and date of the work being cited. An example can be seen below of how this compares to the seventh edition of MLA formatting.

7th Edition MLA:

Berresford Ellis, Peter. *Celtic Myths and Legends*. Philadelphia: Running Press, 1999. Print.

8th Edition MLA:

Ellis Berresford, Peter. *Celtic Myths and Legends*. Running Press, 1999.

As for web sources, however, more information must be given. Now the entire URL must be given instead of just providing the website from where the source was taken. Here is an example geared towards a particular *New York Times* article pulled

from the internet.

7th Edition:

Burns, Alexander, and Jonathan Martin. "Paul Ryan Turns Focus From Donald Trump to House Races, Roiling G.O.P." *Nytimes. New York Times*, 10 Oct. 2016. Web. 10 Oct. 2016.

8th Edition:

Burns, Alexander, and Jonathan Martin. "Paul Ryan Turns Focus From Donald Trump to House Races, Roiling G.O.P." *New York Times*. 10 Oct. 2016. www.nytimes.com/2016/10/11/us/politics/donald-trump-gop-hillary-clinton.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=span-ab-top-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0

MEET THE TUTORS AND STAFF



Hello! My name is Catalina Chicas and I've been working as a tutor at the WRC for about a month. I am currently a music major, with an emphasis in voice. Music and teaching are my passion, so I am hoping to finish my bachelor's degree in Music and pursue teaching credentials after that. Through tutoring, I'd like to acquire some important skills for teaching and working with people. My hobbies include crafting, nail art, playing violin, and singing. I also like to volunteer in music/ childcare related events, such as Sunday School and holiday concerts.



My name is Rachel Cooper and I am from the Fresno area. I am a senior at Fresno Pacific University and stoked that I'm almost done. I am majoring in Communication and Biblical Studies, and spend a lot of my time as a teaching assistant and tutor-- as well as running study sessions at FPU. I love history and religious studies and hope to teach those subjects at a college, like Stanford, in the future. In my free time, however, you can usually find me at the local rock-climbing gym, in Yosemite (or other outdoorsy locations), climbing and hiking, or eating tacos. I work here at the WRC because few things bring me greater joy than getting to work with students and fellow peers on an activity/subject that I love; writing is one of my favorite things in the world, besides rock climbing, of course.



My name is Orion Fitzhenry and I have been a student here at FCC for about 3 years. I came here right after graduating from Roosevelt High School in 2013 and declared myself as an English major after about a year. I plan on going into journalism for my bachelor's after I get this associated for transfer degree. I haven't decided which school I want to go to next, but I will be applying to schools in California and Oregon, as well as Fresno State. In my spare time I like to write stories and record songs This is my first semester as a tutor and enjoy helping people improve their writing skills.



My name is Taylor Montero. I am currently getting my associates degree in biomechanical science and criminology. Some of my hobbies include listening to music, playing softball and watching movies with my friends. This is my first semester working in the Writing and Reading Center (WRC). I decided to be a tutor so that I could assist individuals in becoming successful. I hope to have a positive impact on every individual that I work with this semester.



My name is Melody Kruse and I am one of the faculty that supervises the Writing and Reading Center. I have my B.A. in Liberal Studies from Fresno Pacific University and my M.A. in Christian Ministry from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. I am passionate about helping others learn what it means to read and write. That passion began when I worked in the WRC as a tutor from 2008-2010. I believe in the organic process of writing and enjoy connecting with students to help them transform their thoughts into concrete words on paper. As a lover of words, I enjoy writing blogs in my spare time as well as reading. I am also passionate about music, when I'm not working at the WRC you can find me teaching piano from my home, practicing piano and singing with the San Joaquin Chorale.

THE BOOK CORNER

Come and check out the Writing and Reading Center on Facebook! Like our page to receive inspiring quotes and helpful articles about writing. <https://www.facebook.com/WritingandReading/>



Writing frees the soul.
Reading frees the mind.

Kim



The Writing and Reading Center

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 student 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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