

TUTOR GRAM

ISSUE 01 / March 2015

The Writing Process

SpARC
presentations at
ANY stage

**PAPER
CENTERED
VS. WRITER
CENTERED**

*Develop
your Ideas
Moves
Writers Make*

WELCOME TO

WHAT IS TUTORGRAM?!

Tutorgram is the new monthly newsletter for the Center for Writing and Speaking. Each month, we will highlight writing and speaking strategies that will help you improve YOUR ability to write analytically and speak with confidence and clarity! You can also tune in to the newsletter for information on upcoming events, fun interactive videos, and much more!

We still highly encourage you to come and visit us! Having a trained tutor look over your assignment before you turn it in can make a big difference!

Click [HERE](#) to be directed to our appointment making system!

TUTORGRAM!

COME
VISIT US!

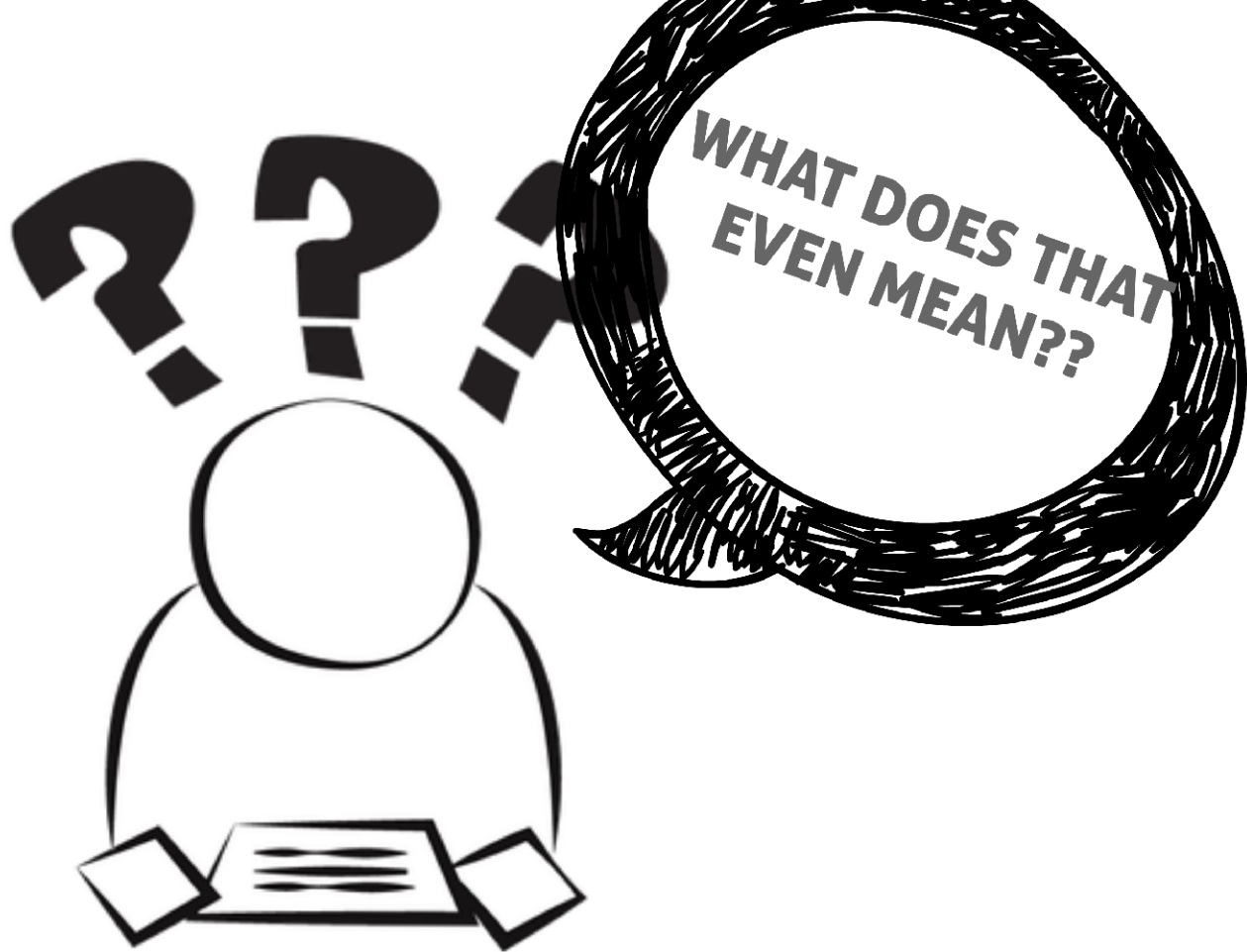


CONTACT

Mina Ivanova serves as coordinator and oversees the Center for Writing and Speaking during the 2014-2015 academic year. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach her at mivanova@agnesscott.edu or 404.471.5201.

Dr. Christine Cozzens is the director of the Center for Writing and Speaking. She is on sabbatical until summer 2015. The best way to get in touch with her during that time is by e-mail at ccozzens@agnesscott.edu.

cws@agnesscott.edu — this is our general email. If you'd like immediate feedback, it is more effective to email the coordinator directly.



DON'T BE PAPER CENTERED

CWS tutors are always eager to help students do their best work. Too often, however, tutees come to us right before an assignment is due, which limits what can be accomplished in a given tutoring session. Such appointments usually turn out to be ***paper-centered*** rather than ***writer-centered***: while they may help the student revise and polish a given assignment, they contribute little to her development as a writer (or speaker). So how can you get the most out of your tutoring session?

The key is to start the writing process early (and if you have not yet come to see us this semester, it is time you booked that appointment!). You can also

schedule a series of appointments to keep you on track throughout the semester while helping you develop good writing and speaking habits. This strategy can benefit writers of all majors and ability levels.

To illustrate this point, here is what, according to one study, happens with students' writing concerns over the course of three writing center visits. Higher order (or global) concerns—the aspects of writing that connect to invention and critical thinking—tend to decrease sharply with consecutive visits. Lower order concerns, by contrast tend to increase:

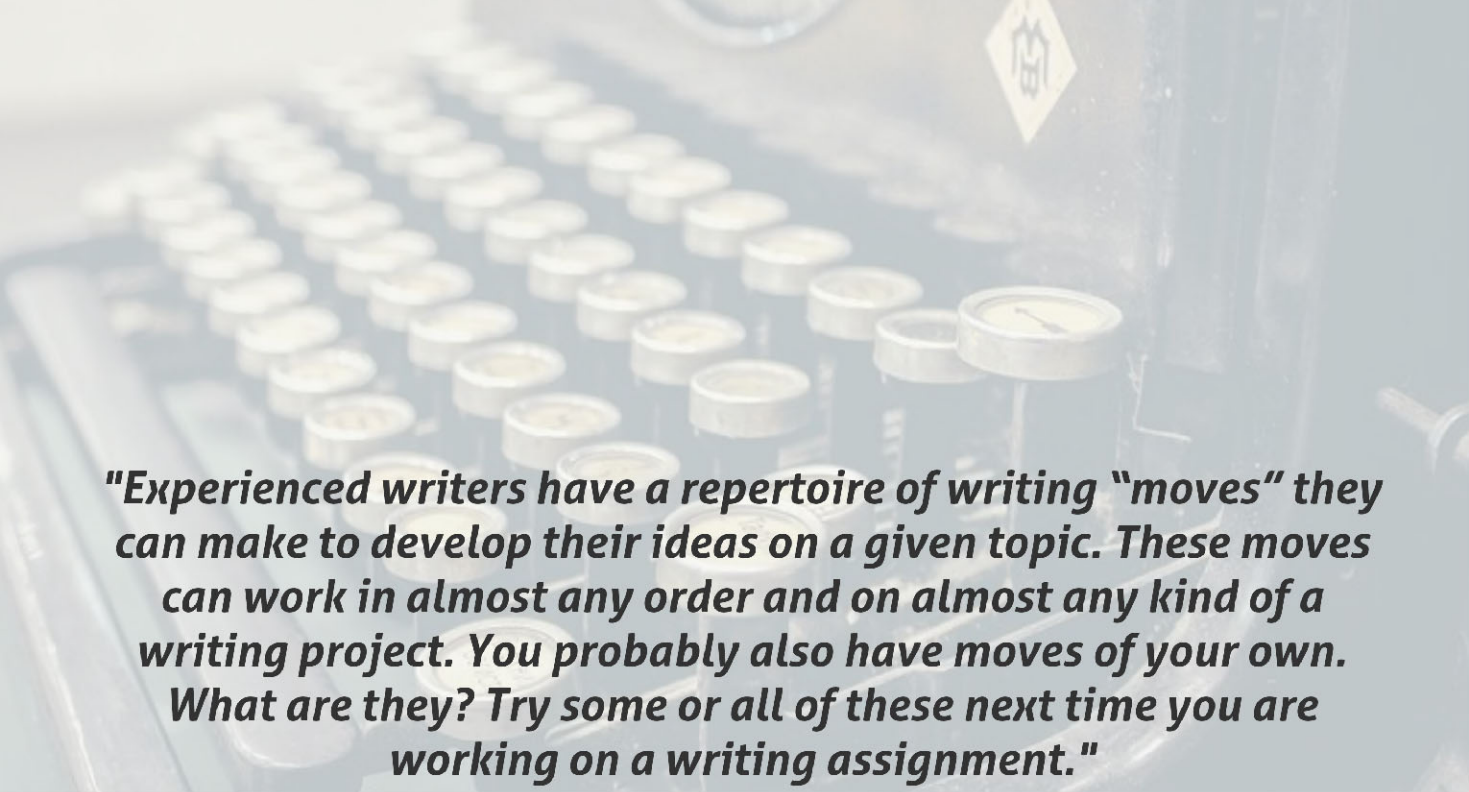
“Establishing a purpose” decreased from 26% to 17% to 0%. “Developing or clarifying a thesis” likewise dropped from 52% to 40% to 7%, respectively. Finally, “Developing ideas/examples” also dropped from 95% to 69% to 48% in frequency. A second trend, by contrast, showed that the frequency of sentence-level writing tasks dramatically increased over the course of the same writing center visits. “Editing ideas/language” increased from 19% to 72% to 85%, while “Editing mechanics” increased from 5% to 60% to 81%, respectively.[1]

These findings suggest that working incrementally and in collaboration with a tutor can help you successfully solve your projects’ ideational and argumentative puzzles first. You can then focus on crafting the style and perfecting the technical aspects of the work. Over time, you will become your own best editor and coach. Even the most masterful of writers and speaker can benefit from regular collaboration with a tutor—perfection, after all, is always a moving target!

[1] Doug Enders. “The Idea Check: Changing ESL Students’ Use of the Writing Center.” Writing Lab Newsletter 37, no. 9–10 (June 5, 2013), 6. While the study focused mostly on students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, its conclusions apply to all students.

That makes sense now!





"Experienced writers have a repertoire of writing "moves" they can make to develop their ideas on a given topic. These moves can work in almost any order and on almost any kind of a writing project. You probably also have moves of your own. What are they? Try some or all of these next time you are working on a writing assignment."

DEVELOPING I MOVES WRITING

Collect quotations, images, actions, patterns.

Find quotations, images, actions, patterns, etc. from the text or material under study, the theory pertaining to your topic, or your area of interest that raise questions in your mind and make you want to think and write. Note citation details, including page number, so you can properly attribute these quotations and ideas later on.

Write questions about your topic.

Not just one, but a lot. Free write in response to them. Where do your responses intersect? Is there a topic there? Which questions can't easily be answered? Is there a topic there?

Figure out what you need to know to answer the question(s) you choose to pursue.

Theory? What Kind of Theory? History? Politics? Biography? Language? Technique? Other works? Details that will feed your creativity? Now go out and find more primary and secondary sources.

Let the primary sources guide you.

Don't lose sight of the primary sources you are focusing on as you carry out other kinds of research. Primary sources generate important questions and hold ideas and answers for you to discover.

Create, borrow, modify, refine key terms.

You need terms with which to set up and make your arguments. Get them from primary and secondary sources, but make them your own through definitions or new creations. Some analyses lend themselves to the creation of new terms or phrases.

Look for a new way of thinking, reading, or writing.

Others have done certain things, covered certain ground. Where does your work fit in? What space can you carve out for you to fill? Use quotations from other thinkers on this topic to show where your ideas fit in.

**IDEAS:
ITERS**

these problems! Use "however" to set the stage for your theories and ideas. You will supply from your own thinking and analysis whatever is to be on the far side of the "however."

Contextualize!

Everything must be explained, illustrated with examples, put into context for the reader.

Consider the title of your paper as an opportunity.

You can do things with your title that complement, accentuate, surprise, emphasize—there are lots of possibilities.

Determine the sections or steps or parts of the project.

This strategy will help you get the writing started and an organized approach will help you guide and meet readers' expectations. If you actually build in subtitles in the draft, you always have the option of taking them out once you've accomplished your writing goals.

Let your introduction establish common ground and destabilize the reader.

Tell us what we need to know to enter the world of your essay. Make us see that there are problems that need solving. Raise for us the questions that made you choose this direction. Then tell us how you plan to solve

MAKE

Follow through on the promises you make to the reader.

We call this "developing your point." It's where the bulk of the writing comes from. Rise expectations and meet them—this is the rhythm of good, clear, forward-moving writing.



WRITING ANIM



IDEA GENERATION PROCESS

PRESENTING

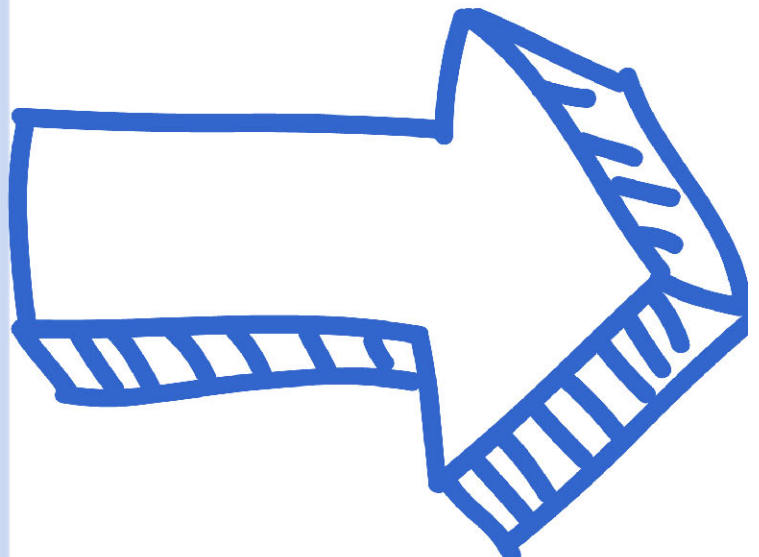
Its never too early to com

You can come in for tutoring at any stage of the presentation development process: from brainstorming ideas, crafting an abstract and outlining your paper to completing the final stages of editing. An experienced peer tutor can help you refine your argument, determine the most effective arrangement for your ideas, and polish your style.

You can practice your presentation and get feedback on your vocal delivery and body language. The CWS Presentation Center (G-17) has state-of-the-art projection equipment to help you make the most of what you have to say. Schedule an appointment at

<http://cws.agnesscott.edu/>

Watch this short video to learn about effective presentation



AT SpARC?!

come to the CWS!



The Center for Writing & Speaking



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