Writing Support Resource Guide

East Campus

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Tutoring Options

- Distance Tutoring options are available 24/7. You can meet with a tutor via Zoom (Live Assistance) or submit your assignment and wait for a response (asynchronous).
    - Main Link: ValenciaCollege.edu/Tutoring
    - Writing, Reading & Speech Tab
        - Live Assistance

- Valencia writing tutors are available to assist you with any writing assignment for any course. Once you have joined, a moderator will greet you to get connected with a tutor.

    - Asynchronous Essay Submission
        - Essay submission through the BrainFuse platform is currently managed Valencia tutors. When the college is closed during holidays, BrainFuse tutors manage the asynchronous essay submission platform.
            - Please watch this video to learn how to use the BrainFuse platform.

- EAP (English for Academic Purposes) Tab
    - Live Assistance
        - EAP-specific tutors are available to assist EAP students with any EAP assignment for any EAP course.

- Orientation Videos
    - Want to learn more about what we offer and how we help? These videos will help explain!
        - Communications Center In Person Visits
        - Communications Center Online Writing Assistance

Prewriting

There are many resources available to you as you begin working on your writing assignments. Prewriting resources can help you analyze the assignment, plan, generate ideas, brainstorm, and create basic organization.

Face-To-Face Support

Oftentimes, your professor is the best resource to go to for questions about assignments, generating ideas for a paper, refining those ideas to the best possible choices, and considering the most effective methods for organizing those ideas.

Beyond faculty support, the Communications Center (4-120) tutors and Live Tutoring Assistance tutors can assist in your brainstorming and planning process.

Other Support

If you do not require live assistance during the prewriting/planning phase and instead just need guidance and a review of how to begin writing an essay, the following resources are helpful.

Understanding Academic Writing/Prewriting

- Videos
    - How to Get Started Writing Your Paper
    - The Three (or Four) Styles of Writing
- Worksheets
    - Turning a Prompt

Reviewing Essay Structure and Brainstorming Methods

- Worksheets
    - Elements of an Excellent Essay

- Organizational Patterns
- Cluster Map
- Flow Chart

Drafting and Revising

Students often need more support and guidance during the drafting and revising phases of the writing process. As such, this is a great time to seek out resources and support.

You have a lot of choices! If you need direct assistance and think someone explaining to you face-to-face will help, visit the Communications Center or Live Assistance. If you just want your paper to be reviewed and read through the feedback yourself, BrainFuse is the way to go. If you want to do a self-guided review or want to clarify one area quickly, our worksheets and videos are just the thing.

Face-to-Face Support

Your best bet will always be to reach out to your professor during office hours to discuss drafts, to go over feedback, and to develop strategies for revising.

In addition, visiting the Communications Center (4-120) or a Live Tutoring Assistance session can be a great way to further clarify feedback or get a check-in on how your draft is looking.

Other Support

If you do not require live assistance during the drafting and revising phases, you may consider submitting a completed (or partially completed) draft of your essay to BrainFuse to receive feedback.

If you just need guidance and a review of how to draft and revise an essay, the following resources are helpful.

Developing a Thesis and Introduction

- Videos
    - Thesis Statement: What Are You?
- Worksheets
    - Writing a Thesis
    - Introduction Paragraphs

Organizing and Body Paragraphs

- Videos
    - Making Better Paragraphs
    - Creating a Speech Outline
- Worksheets
    - Topic Sentences
    - Transition Words

Conclusions

- Worksheets
    - Conclusion Paragraphs

Revision

- Worksheets
    - Revision Exercise Packet

Sentence-Level Revision

- Worksheets

- Active and Passive Voice
- Avoiding Cliches

Editing and Proofreading

The editing and proofreading phases of the writing process are often where students want the most help because grammar is one of the most visible and obvious aspects of writing. While the online tutors and Brainfuse can provide you with instruction on grammar, **the goal of these services is not proofreading**. Instead, the goal is to teach you the skills so that you can become an effective editor and proofreader of your own work.

Face-to-Face Support

As always, reaching out to your professor during office hours to discuss grammar, go over feedback, and develop a proofreading plan is always your best bet!

For additional assistance, tutoring in the Communications Center (4-120) or a Live Tutoring Assistance session can assist you in learning how to proofread. Again, tutors are not proofreaders. Tutors are there to assist you in learning how to identify grammar issues and give you the tools to proofread your own work.

Other Support

If you do not require live assistance during the proofreading and editing phases, you may consider submitting your essay to BrainFuse and receiving written feedback. Again, the tutors are not proofreaders and will not proofread your essay, but they will identify grammar issues and explain how to correct and avoid them in the future.

If you just need guidance and a review of basic grammar concepts an essay, the following resources are helpful.

- Videos
    - Video: Before You Turn It in, Check These Things
- Worksheet
    - Before You Turn It In Checklist
- Website
    - How to Maximize Grammarly to Improve Your Writing Skills

Grammar

- Videos
    - Introduction to Sentence Structure
    - Simple Sentences
    - Compound Sentences
    - Complex Sentences
    - Subject Verb Agreement (singular/plural)
    - Subject Verb Agreement - Separated Subject and Verbs
    - Subject Verb Agreement - Irregular Verbs
    - Subject Verb Agreement - Compound Subjects
    - Subject Verb Agreement - Collective Nouns
    - Hyphen Usage and You!
    - Behold the Power of the Comma
    - Capitalization for Fun and Profit
    - Using There, Their, and They're
- Worksheets
    - Commas
    - Run-ons and Comma Splices
    - Semicolons
    - Simple Subjects and Predicates

- Pronoun Agreement
- Pronouns
- Sentence Fragments
- Fragment Tip Sheet
- Apostrophes
- Punctuation Tip Sheet
- Verb Tenses
- Verb Types
- Coordinating and Subordinating Conjunctions
- Sentence Types and Variety
- Conjunctive Adverbs
- Comparative and Superlative
- Modals
- Compound Subjects and Compound Predicates
- Parallel Structure
- Subject Verb Agreement Overview
- Basic Subject Verb Agreement
- Advanced Subject Verb Agreement

MLA, APA, and Chicago Documentation Styles

Understanding the rules of documentation styles can be a challenge! However, you are not alone when it comes to documentation. The following resources can help you master MLA, APA, and Chicago styles.

Face-to-Face Support

Tutors in the Communications Center (4-120) or a Live Tutoring Assistance session can assist you in setting up your Works Cited/References page, explain how to find elements of your citations, and set your paper up in the proper format.

Other Support

If you would prefer a sample or guide to follow, the following resources are helpful.

- Videos
    - MLA Elements and Where to Find Them
- Worksheets
    - MLA 8 Overview
    - MLA 8 Formatting Guide
    - MLA 8 Works Cited Page
    - Formatting a Works Cited Page
    - APA Citation
    - Chicago Style
    - APA Sample Paper
    - Chicago Sample Paper
    - MLA/APA Word Templates
    - Plagiarism