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Useful Websites for College Writers

- owl.english.purdue.edu
- www.gc.maricopa.edu/english/writing.html
- grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar

Top Tips for Successful Writers

Because we know how hard (and fun) writing can be, the Writing Success Project has compiled some of our top tips to help our students succeed in their writing classes. You’ll find helpful information throughout this newsletter, and the inside pull-out page could be a useful reference.

Happy writing!

Message from Carol

I walk by WSP's group room several times a day and have been amazed at the level of participation this semester.... here's a small sample of what I have noticed:

A group of five students from Ms. Smith’s English 90 came over and worked together early one morning in March, even though their tutor could not be present.

Students are staying late Thursday afternoon to complete discussions of assignments for Ms. Messer's English 1A. They even came to group for a "debriefing" just after they had finished an in-class writing assignment.

The community spirit of mutual support that goes on in study groups is a pleasure to witness.
These are difficult times. Many people are anxious and afraid. We will make it if we remember to help and support each other.

Make the most of your time as a student because you are investing in your future. Remember: Your education is only as good as the amount of effort you put into it!

Start your background reading and other assignments early because you don’t want to create more stress for yourself or family and friends. Learn to enjoy reading – use your imagination. It’s better than any Spielberg movie and it doesn’t cost anything. Attend free workshops on campus that will help improve your skills. Make the most of all of the valuable tutoring services, and presentations, that CCSF offers you.

Go out and volunteer. When you’re doing community service and helping others, you don’t have the time to focus on yourself. And when you’re through you feel great!

Education is more than just book-learning – it’s learning about yourself and others, expanding and developing your interpersonal skills. Utilize your study groups to the max! Speak up and ask the questions you have been afraid to ask. Share with others. Be prepared to have a good discussion. Challenge yourself. You have everything to gain. Think about how great it will feel to end the group on a positive note!

Remember to support others in group and in class. Don’t be so ready to laugh at someone’s comments or mistake. Try to be kind; remember to be patient. How would you like it if someone laughed at you? A kind word doesn’t cost anything and you may have made someone’s life easier. Who knows - you may have even made a new friend. Being a good listener is a real skill and listening when someone needs it is one of the greatest gifts you can give.

The most valuable things in life – like family and friends, love, happiness and joy – are priceless. I think that years from now, we will see that this was a time when people re-evaluated their lives, looked past material possessions, and saw what was really important.

When I am discouraged about something, I talk to my sister, my brother, or a friend – usually all! Then, I take a deep breath and try to figure out one small thing that I can do to make it better. I tell myself, “That’s the best you can do right now. It doesn’t do any good to beat yourself up!” Sometimes we all have to remember to be kind to ourselves, too!
4 Proofreading tips for Russian and Chinese Speakers

1. Check for the omission of articles:
   Sun is bright today.       Correction: The sun is bright today.
   She bought dress.         Correction: She bought a dress.
   Economy is worrisome.     Correction: The economy is worrisome.

2. Check for omission of "be" verbs:
   Doctor always optimistic.
   Correction: The doctor is always optimistic.

   New York larger than San Francisco.
   Correction: New York is larger than San Francisco.

3. Check for verb agreement:
   Singer have big band.     Correction: The singer has a big band.

4. Check to make sure that the relative or restricting clause follows the noun:
   The registered in night school student...
   Correction: The student registered in night school...

Vocabulary Decoding Tips

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3 Tips for Spanish Speakers

Try these tips for successful proofreading:

1. Check for the incorrect use of an article with a generalization:
   The geography is difficult to learn.
   Correction: Geography is difficult to learn.

2. Check for confusion between a gerund (-ing) noun and the infinitive form:
   Cary avoids to sleep on planes.       Correction: Cary avoids sleeping on planes.


3. Check for the omission of the subject:
   Is raining outside today.             Correction: It is raining outside today.

4. Check for the use of a "that" clause instead of the infinitive form:
THE SENTENCE DOCTOR IS IN

Sickly Sentence: Moreover, it will not affect me, the only people who it will affect, are people who will be receiving the benefits of gay marriage being made legal.

Diagnosis: No clear subject, run-together sentence, weak "be" verb.

Cure: Use a concrete subject and a subordinating clause to connect the two sentences grammatically.

Revision: Although it will not affect me, the legalization of same-sex marriage will provide health and legal benefits to gays who marry.

Sickly Sentence: Over the two weeks we spent in Death Valley, we were challenged in all ways possible both as a group and personally.

Diagnosis: Ideas not expressed in similar form.

Cure: Use parallel construction and strong verbs (avoid "be" verbs) to make this sentence stronger.

Revision: Our two weeks in Death Valley challenged us both as a group and as individuals.

Sickly sentence: The next Gothic element is when the author shows the main character's house getting burned to the ground.

Diagnosis: Inappropriate use of "is when." (Look up "predication" in your grammar reference)

Cure: Use "is when" phrases only to indicate time, and "is where" phrases only to show location.

Revision: The author’s description of the house-burning adds another gothic element to the short story.

DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF THESE COMMON CLICHÉS?

- blood is thicker than water: ties with family are stronger than those with friends
- the grass is always greener: someone else's situation always seems better than your own
- under the weather: feeling a bit ill
- speak of the devil: the person you were talking about just walked into the room
- bells and whistles: special (and unnecessary) gadgets or features that are included with a product
- cut both ways: a situation that has advantages/disadvantages for both sides
- Big Brother (is watching you): always being under watch/surveillance by the authorities, often used to refer to a totalitarian government or an invasion of privacy: originally, a character reference from George Orwell's novel, 1984
- there's no such thing as a free lunch: one typically doesn't get something for nothing -- originally, a business lunch invitation that came with expectations of something in return
No Laptop? Free Computers on the Ocean Campus

**Learning Assistance Computer Center Labs**
Rosenberg 207
452-5511

**ACRC Academic Computing Resource Center**
Batmale 301
239-3492

**DPS High-Tech Center in Batmale 231**
239-3616

**Word Processing Room**
Rosenberg 521

**Latina/o Student Network in Cloud 364**
452-5620

**APASS Asian Pacific Student Success Center**
Batmale 208
452-5620

**Family Resource Center**
Student Union 201A
239-3109

**Women’s Resource Center**
Smith 103/104
239-3112

Free computers are also available for limited time periods at the San Francisco Main Public Library and branches. Call 415-557-4400 or visit www.sfpl.org.

Have Laptop, Will Travel: S.F. Cafés with Free Wi-Fi (Wireless Internet)

Axis Café
1201 18th Street

Kaleo Café
1340 Irving Street

Brainwash Café and Laundromat
1122 Folsom Street

Chaat Café
320 3rd Street

Golden Gate Perk
401 Bush Street

Java Jitters
1125 Ocean Avenue

Morning Due Café
698 17th Street

South Beach Café
Embarcadero and Townsend

Caffe Trieste
609 Vallejo Street

Royal Ground Coffee
3901 18th Street

Oakside Café
1195 Oak Street

Ritual Café
1026 Valencia Street

Starbucks Coffee
(Various locations)

Peet’s Coffee
(Some locations)

Not up for coffee? Try the San Francisco Main Public Library and Branches.

Look up branch locations and hours at www.sfpl.org or call 415-557-4400.

“I work on a laptop specifically so I can work in cafés and pretend I’m part of the human world.” —Jonathan Lethem, MacArthur “genius grant” recipient and novelist, in 7x7 magazine
READING...FOR PLEASURE!
Books Made Into Movies: Watch the movie, read the book.

A River Runs Through It - Norman MacLean
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - Ken Kesey
Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen
Twilight - Stephanie Meyer
Runaway Jury - John Grisham
Jurassic Park - Michael Crichton
The Wonder Boys - Michael Chabon
To Kill A Mockingbird -- Harper Lee
Tuesdays with Morrie- Mitch Albom
The Hours - Michael Cunningham
The Namesake - Jhumpa Lahiri
The Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan
Watchmen - Alan Moore
The Witches of Eastwick - John Updike

Erin’s LERN Classes for Fall 2009...
register for up to 2 of them!

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Students can register online for these courses beginning on their Fall 2009 registration date.