

## **LAC Offers Workshops as SCC Faculty and Students Embrace Writing Across the Curriculum Project**

The Learning Assistance Center offers workshops designed to enhance students' ability to think critically, write effectively, and successfully research, organize, cite, and present formal papers and projects.

Each workshop is offered as a "brief version," lasting from thirty to fifty minutes, or as an "extended version," including interactive exercises and lasting from fifty minutes to two hours. Even longer versions are available, such as when Librarian Dianne Lindgren focuses on library resources and search strategies. Brief versions also can be combined into an extended version; many of the workshops work well together. For example, gathering/organizing materials and evaluating sources go hand in hand.

When you're ready to schedule a workshop in your classroom, just follow four easy steps!

**Step 1:** Choose the workshop and the version from which your students will benefit the most at the time.

**Step 2.** Contact Liz Kelly, WAC Coordinator, at ext. 264 or via email, to set a time, date, and place for your in-class workshop presentation. Please request a workshop two weeks before the desired date. The LAC also will advertise and present out-of-class workshops throughout each semester.

**Step 3.** Enjoy with your students the learning experience available during the workshop.

**Step 4.** Complete with your students a brief evaluation form that will help us to improve our workshops.

### **Workshops**

- ***Gathering and Organizing Materials for Research-Based Papers and Projects***

Some of our students don't realize that writing research papers begins with this step! Adjunct developmental writing instructor Liz Kelly, who also teaches English courses at Western Carolina University (WCU), developed this workshop to show students "how gathering research materials is a means to an end and not an end in itself." It concentrates on finding authoritative sources based on purpose and topic students also will explore different methods of gathering both primary and secondary source material. The workshop can be offered in a traditional classroom or in a computer lab.

- ***Evaluating Sources***

"While the universality of the Internet can be good in that it allows previously marginalized voices to be heard, it also adds a new layer of difficulty for researchers"

## Workshops (continued)

- ***Paraphrasing/Summarizing/Using Quotations***

Learning Consultant Eric Hendrix, who also teaches English courses at WCU, developed this workshop to teach students how to effectively summarize or paraphrase textual content. Students also learn the value of smoothly integrating effective quotations into their work and the best way to do so. The workshop is very interactive and works well in both traditional and computer-lab settings.

- ***Citing Sources in MLA or APA Format***

LAC Coordinator and developmental reading/English instructor Toni Knott designed these workshops to help students understand the need to document research papers according to a certain style and how to accomplish the task with relative ease. Emphasis is put on accurately documenting as a means of convenience for readers as well as for crediting information borrowed from other sources.

- ***Avoiding Plagiarism (including using Turnitin.com)***

Both the brief and extended versions of this workshop, designed by Knott, begin with a definition of plagiarism and a discussion of why it is necessary to understand it. Both also introduce students to a valuable learning tool that will help them to avoid the usually negative consequences of plagiarizing: Turnitin.com's Plagiarism Prevention Program. In the brief version of this workshop, students are shown how to access the program and their online class site; originality reports previously generated by Turnitin are projected onto a screen and discussed. The extended version must be offered in a computer lab, for students are walked through the process of submitting their own papers and understanding their resulting originality reports. The workshop ends with a discussion regarding how best to resolve "sticky situations."

- ***Presenting Results***

Learning Consultant Matthew Hundley, who is working on his master's degree in professional writing at WCU (and is the LAC's advanced computer specialist), developed this workshop to show students how to attractively and effectively present finished papers in order to ensure the most favorable reactions to their work. The extended version of the workshop focuses on successfully presenting results via PowerPoint.

- ***How to Avoid Common Grammar and Punctuation Errors***

Everyone needs a reminder of those seemingly endless details that help our writing (and speaking) to flow smoothly. Developmental writing instructor Bob Satterwhite begins his workshop with a pre-test, and you and your students might be surprised by how well—or not so well—you do! After discussing the most common misunderstandings regarding English grammar and punctuation rules, you'll have a chance to redeem yourself when you retake the test. The workshop can be offered in a traditional classroom but also works well in a computer lab.

- ***College Writing for ESL Students***

Hendrix, also the LAC's "English as a Second Language" specialist, designed this workshop that will be offered out of class on an as-needed basis throughout a semester.

- ***Vocabulary Building***

Math and writing Learning Consultant Melissa Halling, who also teaches math courses as an SCC adjunct instructor, developed this workshop that features a useful PowerPoint presentation. Focus is on understanding etymology, roots, prefixes, and suffixes of words. Students discover that improving their vocabulary makes college work easier and improves their writing and speech. The workshop works well in both a traditional setting and a computer lab.

- ***Objective/Subjective Modes of Writing***

MaryAnn Peterson, who presents in-class writing workshop at WCU, developed this interactive workshop to help students understand these different types of writing and when to use them. The workshop works well in both a traditional setting and a computer lab.

- ***Responding to Short Answer and Essay Questions***

Liz Kelly designed this interactive workshop to help students complete these types of tests successfully. The PowerPoint and handouts are comprehensive. The workshop works well in both a traditional setting and a computer lab.

Note: MLA Style is used throughout this document.