Informative and Interactive Workshops

The CASA Writing Center offers informative and interactive workshops for classes on a variety of writing topics. These workshops can be facilitated in the Writing Center (GSSC 112) for up to 50 students, or Writing Consultants can facilitate the workshop in your classroom. All workshops can be tailored to fit the needs of your students in your course(s). Please contact Kristen.Ruggles@tamucc.edu to request a workshop.

Orientation to Writing Center Services 10 minutes
This brief workshop introduces students to the services and resources offered by the CASA Writing Center. We recommend this introductory workshop to all classes as a simple way to introduce students to the services we offer as well as the Writing Consultants who staff our center. This workshop is most effectively delivered in your classroom.

Introduction to APA 50 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to introduce students to the basics of APA style, formatting, and documentation. It focuses on the most basic elements of APA style: formatting a document, writing an abstract, organizing with headings, creating references, and citing sources within the text. The workshop is both informative and interactive, as it invites students to apply what they are learning about APA through guided practice with Writing Consultants.

Introduction to MLA 50 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to introduce students to the basics of MLA style, formatting, and documentation. It focuses on the most basic elements of MLA style: formatting a document, creating a list of works cited, and citing sources within the text. The workshop is both informative and interactive, as it invites students to apply what they are learning about MLA through guided practice with Writing Consultants.

Strategies for Effective Revision and Peer Review 50 minutes
This workshop introduces students to the concepts of revision and peer review by defining these terms, emphasizing their value in the writing process, and offering suggestions for providing and receiving effective feedback. Following the workshop, students are asked to switch papers with a peer and engage in the peer review process.

Integrating Sources/Evidence (APA or MLA) 50 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to introduce students to the importance of using sources effectively and correctly within their writing. The workshop introduces students to the purpose of using sources in academic writing as well as how to use credible sources within their own writing. It explains the difference between integrating a paraphrase and a quotation, and it additionally offers students strategies for effectively integrating sources in their own writing. At the conclusion of the workshop, students are asked to apply what they have learned in their own writing.

Introduction to Scientific Writing 30 minutes
This workshop is designed to introduce students to the purpose and general conventions of scientific writing. It focuses on the use of concise language, active vs. passive voice, verb tense, and the general structure (IMRAD) of a scientific paper. The workshop can also include a section on a specific documentation style (i.e. APA, JEB, IEEE).

Writing an Abstract and a Conclusion/Discussion 30 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to discuss requirements and provide strategies for composing an abstract and a conclusion/discussion in scientific writing. Following the workshop, students are encouraged to switch drafts with a peer and offer feedback on their abstract and conclusion/discussion.

Plagiarism and the Misuse of Sources 50 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to define what plagiarism is and provide examples of different types of plagiarism. The workshop provides strategies for effectively quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing source material as well as correctly citing material in a required documentation style.

Strategies for Successful College-Level Writing 50 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to introduce first-year students to the resources available to them at the CASA Writing Center. The workshop briefly discusses the expectations of college-level writing, offers tips for approaching and managing writing projects, and explores elements of the writing process.

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Strategies for Research Writing 50 minutes
As a general introduction to the research process, this workshop focuses on finding a topic, conducting research, documenting source information, annotating sources, and beginning the writing process. This workshop is most effectively facilitated in the classroom or computer lab to allow computer-access for each student.

Annotated Bibliography (APA or MLA) 30 minutes
The purpose of this workshop is to provide strategies for composing and formatting an annotated bibliography. It emphasizes the importance of drafting and revising annotations and encourages students to compose their annotated bibliography according to instructor expectations. This workshop is available in APA or MLA.

Composing a Literature Review 30 minutes
This workshop emphasizes the importance of the literature review, reveals its purpose as a piece of writing or as a section of larger work, and offers strategies for researching, organizing, and discussing sources. During the workshop, students are provided with a research matrix template and given the opportunity to apply their own research.

Strategies for Extended Writing Projects 50 minutes
This workshop is designed for students who are working on an extended writing project, such as a thesis, dissertation, and/or published article or chapter. It offers suggestions for planning, composing, revising, and staying motivated.

Conducting Ethnographic Research 50 minutes
Designed to introduce students to ethnographic research methods, this workshop breaks these methods down to their most basic elements: selecting a location, fieldwork – observation and data collection, data analysis, and report writing. The workshop also offers various models and examples to help students understand how ethnographic research methods are incorporated into popular representations of communities.

Multimodal Projects 30 minutes
This workshop introduces students to what a multimodal presentation is and shows them some available software options. The workshop focuses on elements of visual rhetoric and emphasizes the importance of professionalism and style in creating a multimodal presentation.

Poster Presentations 30 minutes
This workshop shows students how to transfer their research into a professional poster presentation. It introduces students to the general expectations of professional posters, such as font, images, layout, and citing sources. Following the workshop, students are provided with a template to design and draft their own poster.

Composing Your Résumé 30 minutes
This workshop introduces students to the options available to them when composing their résumé. Writing Consultants guide students through formatting options and provide strategies for composing sections of a résumé. The workshop includes various samples of résumés as well as general guidelines for students. Following the workshop, students are encouraged to work on drafts of their résumés while Writing Consultants answer questions and offer feedback.

Composing Your Curriculum Vitae (CV) 30 minutes
This workshop introduces students to the major elements of a curriculum vitae (CV). Although there is not a universal CV format, we offer students general guidelines to follow when composing this document. The workshop focuses on the most common categories listed in a CV and includes samples of CVs from different disciplines. Following the informative workshop, students will be given the opportunity to work on their own CV as Writing Consultants answer questions and offer feedback.