BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS OF PEER TUTORING:
SJSU WRITING CENTER

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WRITING CENTER
INFORMATION

▪ Open whenever classes are in session (including winter and summer)
▪ Website: www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter
▪ Email: writingcenter@sjsu.edu
▪ Online/Virtual Services:
  ▪ Online tutoring sessions using Zoom (including evening hours until 9:00 PM)
  ▪ “Ask a Tutor” live chat service
  ▪ Workshops via Zoom on various writing topics
  ▪ Original online resources for self-study (e.g., videos, handouts, our blog)
▪ In-Person Locations (unavailable during fall 2020):
  ▪ The second floor of the MLK Library for tutoring appointments that are scheduled in advance (M-Th, 10:00-7:00 and F, 10:00-3:00)
  ▪ Clark Hall 126 for drop-in tutoring sessions (M-Th, 10:00-3:00)
WRITING CENTER MISSION

▪ Mission: To enhance the writing skills of SJSU students so they can communicate clearly in any setting (informal, academic, or professional)

▪ Tutoring = a collaborative experience in which both the student and the tutor are engaged; no proofreading or editing services

▪ Writers from all disciplines, of all grade levels, and during all phases of the writing process; assistance with any piece of writing
  ▪ Projects
  ▪ Essays
  ▪ Proposals
  ▪ Literature Reviews
  ▪ Research Papers
  ▪ Cover Letters
  ▪ Resumes
  ▪ Personal Statements, and much more…
TUTOR TRAINING

- All **PEER tutors** from various disciplines—from sophomores through graduate students
- Rigorous 15+ hour training program prior to being hired officially
  - Knowledge-base and pedagogy training
  - Multilingual learner training
  - Tutoring best practices
  - Observations
  - Role-playing (mock tutoring)
- Continued training at monthly meetings
- Continued observations with feedback
- Specialized training offered for tutoring online and working with graduate-level writers
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

- Two 45-minute online tutoring sessions per week, with a third (additional) session being available upon request for graduate students
- Assistance with quick questions online through “Ask a Tutor” live chat service
- Scheduled in-person tutoring sessions and additional assistance with quick questions through drop-in tutoring (unavailable in fall 2020)
- Numerous resources posted online (most of which are created by our student tutors): http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/writingresources
- Full slate of workshops every semester on topics ranging from “Common Grammar and Punctuation Errors” to “Basic APA Style” to “Body Paragraphs” to “Un-Blurring Plagiarism and Paraphrasing”
- Special programs, including writing groups/retreats for graduate students
- Writing contests and other events
WRITING CENTER/TUTORING
MYTHS

All the following are common myths about writing centers (meaning that they are NOT true!).

- Writing Center tutors will edit/proofread/revise student papers.
- Writing Center tutors can only help with grammar.
- Writing Center tutors will ensure that every error is corrected in a piece of student writing.
- Students need to have a writing product already completed before they can visit a writing tutor.
- Only students in English/writing classes can visit the Writing Center.
- Undergraduate student tutors can’t work effectively with graduate students.
- Only students majoring in English can be Writing Center tutors.
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS OF PEER TUTORING
WRITING CENTER Q&A

▪ Open time for questions

▪ For more information about the Writing Center, visit www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter or direct questions to writingcenter@sjsu.edu OR michelle.hager@sjsu.edu.

▪ To view our informational video from Admitted Spartan Day, visit https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/admittedspartanday.