

PWR Workshops

The following workshops were designed specifically for PWR classes but are also available to other courses. It is important for instructors to attend the workshops with their classes since many questions require an instructor's response as well as the workshop leader's, and we've noted that the interaction between workshop leader and instructor is essential.

Writing a Rhetorical Analysis

Your PWR class introduces you to many new terms and concepts: ethos, pathos, logos, the rhetorical situation, and so forth. This workshop will give you an opportunity to clarify what these terms mean and how to use them to analyze an argument. You'll get hands-on experience with preparing a rhetorical analysis, and we'll offer some tips for using your new understanding of rhetoric to make successful writing decisions of your own as you draft your PWR assignment.

Beginning Your Research Project

Research-based writing is a key element of academic work: it's what scholars do. We'll begin the workshop by identifying what research-based writing is and what it's designed to accomplish. You'll then get to apply these ideas to your own project by:

- Developing a focused research question.
- Identifying specific research sources that this question directs you toward.
- Working with databases on the Writing Center computers to find some preliminary sources for your topic.

Evaluating and Using Research Sources

You've got a research question and a pile of books and articles on your topic (or you don't). What do you do now? In this workshop, we'll work on three specific techniques that will help you enter the scholarly discussion of your research topic.

- Using sources to develop your topic. How research sources can help you refine your research question.
- Evaluating your sources. How to distinguish scholarly sources from non-scholarly sources. Why this matters. And how to choose your sources well.
- Using sources to view your topic from various perspectives. How sources can help you generate new knowledge and new ways of thinking about your topic.

Developing an Academic Style

Having a hard time adapting your writing style to new academic expectations? This workshop will help you understand what your audience expects of your writing, and we'll work on specific techniques for meeting those expectations. We'll try to adapt this workshop to your specific concerns. These concerns may include grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph organization as well as specific writing conventions in different disciplines.

Preparing a Formal Oral Presentation

We'll cover several important techniques for preparing and delivering a successful oral presentation. Topics include:

- How written and oral arguments differ.
 - How to use your voice effectively.
 - How to include visual information in your presentation.
 - How to hold stage fright at bay.
- You'll get some practice and constructive feedback in the workshop.

Analyzing Visual Texts

Instruction and practice in developing a basic vocabulary for visual analysis, in understanding rhetorical principals of visual design, and in using these skills to analyze relationships between visual and written texts.

Powerful PowerPoint

A demonstration of how to take advantage of the medium of PowerPoint to support oral presentations, including a discussion of common pitfalls, followed by a hands-on workshop in developing clear, strong, communicative PowerPoint slides.

Conducting Peer Reviews

This workshop offers step-by-step guidance in responding to peer writing.

IHUM Workshops

The following workshops were designed specifically for IHUM classes but are also available to other courses. It is important for instructors to attend the workshops with their classes since many questions require an instructor's response as well as the workshop leader's, and we've noted that the interaction between workshop leader and instructor is essential.

Getting Started on Your IHUM Paper: How to read your assignment and how to develop an effective thesis statement

This Writing Center workshop will help you understand what is expected of college writers, and it will offer you specific strategies for meeting these expectations. The workshop will focus on four important elements of writing your IHUM paper:

- Understanding your assignment. You may have more creative possibilities than you think.
- Doing a close reading. We'll offer some tips, and you'll get hands-on practice.
- Preparing your thesis. You'll see some examples of theses, you'll prepare one of your own, and we'll discuss the criteria that make a successful thesis.
- Using your thesis to organize your paper. Some tips for how to make your thesis work!

Developing an Argumentative Position: How to choose textual evidence and use it to support your thesis

Have a great idea for your paper but don't know how to develop it? Have too many quotations in your paper? Not sure what to do once you've quoted a primary text? We'll address each of these questions and more in our workshop designed to help you write a successful text-based argument. You'll get hands-on experience with:

- How to choose quotations to support your thesis.
- How to use quotations to develop your argument.
- How to integrate quotations with your own writing.
- When to quote, summarize, and paraphrase.

Developing an Academic Style

Having a hard time adapting your writing style to new academic expectations? This workshop will help you understand what your audience expects of your writing, and we'll work on specific techniques for meeting those expectations. We'll try to adapt this workshop to your specific concerns. These concerns may include grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph organization as well as specific writing conventions in different disciplines.