Helping Graduate Students Become Successful Writers:

A Graduate Writing Center Deploys both Disciplinary Writing Consultants and Generalists
Presented by North Dakota State University’s Graduate Center for Writers

Enrico Sassi: Director
Matt Warner: Disciplinary Consultant, College of Science and Math
Kristina Caton: Disciplinary Consultant, College of Human Development and Education
Drew Taylor: Disciplinary Consultant, College of Engineering
Shweta Sharma: Generalist Consultant
Workshops and Intervention Strategies for Faculty: The Graduate Center for Writers

• How to develop rubrics to assess discipline-specific writing
• Responding to student writing: How to write helpful comments
• Genre-specific pedagogy
• Writer’s block
• Scaffolding writing assignments through the semester
• How to create assignments that develop specific skill sets (like synthesis or citation)
Threshold Concepts

• Writing is a social and rhetorical activity
• Writing speaks to situations through recognizable forms
• Writing enacts and creates identities and ideologies
• All writers have more to learn
• Writing is a cognitive activity

Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies. Eds. Linda Adler-Kassner & Elizabeth Wardle
It is important to build your writing project from the ground up. Perfect citations or punctuation cannot make up for a project which does not use the correct approach to its audience, purpose, or genre.

*Always start with the basics!*
Three Ways We Read and/or Write

- We Write for Our Own Understanding: Reading our writing in the context of our needs
- We Read as a Reader: Seeing our writing through our audience’s eyes
- We Read as Writers: Revising our writing for the needs and expectations of our audience