

Investigating Writing Center Workshops

Start of Block: Informed Consent

Informed Consent

Jackie Grutsch McKinney and Rebecca Jackson suggest that 84 % of writing centers are conducting workshops, but the theorization of such workshops are largely underrepresented in writing center scholarship. Additionally, the scholarship about workshops tends to be primarily anecdotal and lacks empirical evidence. This study will seek to gather data in order to speak to this gap, and to identify current practices of writing center workshops. Our aim is to gather empirical data identifying the development and facilitation of writing center workshops (given to students at the writing center, within the English department, and across the curriculum). The results of this study may be used to present at conferences and / or for publication. No identifying information will be included in any presentations or publications.

There are no known risks associated with this study. However, if you feel uncomfortable at any time during your session and would like to end the recording, you may close your browser window. There will be no consequences, and your survey will not be included in the study. This research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board for projects involving human subjects at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. By completing this survey, I acknowledge that I am 18 years of age or older and voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

I have read and understand the informed consent and conditions of this research. If I have any questions about this survey or the study, I will contact those persons below. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent for participation in this project. If you have any questions about this research study, please do not hesitate to contact researcher Katie Garahan kgarahan@vt.edu and / or Becky Morrison [morriss7@miamioh.edu](mailto:morrisr7@miamioh.edu).

Should you have any questions or concerns about the study's conduct or your rights as a research subject, or need to report a research-related injury or event, you may contact the VT IRB Chair, Dr. David M. Moore at moored@vt.edu or (540) 231-4991.

End of Block: Informed Consent

Start of Block: General Questions / Demographics

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Throughout this survey, the researchers use the term "tutors" to refer to workers within the writing center who help students with their

writing. Additionally, the researchers use the term “writing center director,” but are also referring to “coordinators,” etc. The researchers distinguish “workshops” from one-on-one consultations.

Q1 Please indicate your writing center position. Select all the apply

- Current Writing Center Director (1)
 - Former Writing Center Director (2)
 - Current Assistant Director (3)
 - Former Assistant Director (4)
 - Current Administrator (5)
 - Former Administrator (6)
 - Current Graduate Assistant (7)
 - Other (8) _____
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Q2 What do you call your writing center (for example, Writing Center, Writing Clinic, Writing Lab, Learning Center)?

Q3 Do you have a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) or Writing in the Disciplines (WID) program at your institution?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Skip To: Q28 If Do you have a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) or Writing in the Disciplines (WID) program at... = Yes

Q4 Is your institution's WAC or WID program affiliated with the writing center?

Yes (1)

No (3)

Q5 Approximately how many appointments **per semester** do you have?

Less than 100 (1)

100 - 500 (2)

500 - 1,000 (3)

More than 1,000 (4)

Other (5) _____

Q6 Are your tutors:

Undergraduates (1)

Graduates (2)

Faculty (3)

Professional (4)

Other (5) _____

Q7 How many tutors work in your center?

- Less than 5 (1)
 - 5 - 15 (2)
 - 15 - 30 (3)
 - More than 30 (4)
 - Other (5) _____
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Q8 Does your center offer workshops?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Does your center offer workshops? = No

End of Block: General Questions / Demographics

Start of Block: Writing Center Workshops

Q9 Do you offer a tutor training course?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Skip To: Q10 If Do you offer a tutor training course? = No

Q10 Do you discuss the development and facilitation of workshops in the tutor training course?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Other (3) _____

*Skip To: Q10 If Do you discuss the development and facilitation of workshops in the tutor training course?
= No*

Q11 Briefly describe the materials you use to talk about workshops in the tutor training course.

Q12 Do you offer workshops for writing classes within the English department?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Skip To: Q13 If Do you offer workshops for writing classes within the English department? = No

Q13 What kind of workshops do you offer? Check all that apply.

- Citation Practices (1)
 - Revising (2)
 - Brainstorming (3)
 - Cover Letters / Resumes (4)
 - Audience Awareness (5)
 - Organizing Your Writing (6)
 - Being a Good Peer Reviewer (7)
 - Incorporating Evidence (8)
 - Please list additional workshops. (9) _____
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Q14 Who is the primary audience for these workshops? Check all that apply.

- Undergraduate Students (1)
 - Graduate Students (2)
 - Both (3)
 - Other (4) _____
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Q15 Do you offer workshops to students across the curriculum?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q16 What kind of workshops do you offer to students across the curriculum (for example, publishing, writing for the professions, researching, etc.)?

Q17 Who is the primary audience for these workshops? Check all that apply.

- Undergraduate Students (1)
- Graduate Students (2)
- Both (3)
- Other (4) _____

Q18 Why were the workshops developed? Check all that apply.

- We were asked by a faculty member. (1)
- We saw a need from writing center clients. (2)
- We were asked by administrators. (3)
- We were asked by students. (4)
- Other (5) _____

Q19 Who develops content for the workshops? Check all that apply.

- Writing center director (1)
 - Undergraduate writing center tutors (2)
 - Graduate writing center tutors (3)
 - Faculty writing center tutors (4)
 - Other (5) _____
-

Q20 Who facilitates these workshops?

- Writing center director (1)
- Undergraduate writing center tutors (2)
- Graduate writing center tutors (3)
- Faculty writing center tutors (4)
- Other (5) _____

End of Block: Writing Center Workshops

Start of Block: Creating and Facilitating Workshops

Q21 How do you develop the content for workshops (for example, I refer to literature, I ask colleagues, I use what was left for me by a previous writing center director, etc.)? Please describe this process.

Q22 Are there specific theories or pedagogical approaches that you use to develop workshops (for example, student-centered learning, situated learning, etc.)? Please explain.

Q23 In addition to the process of developing workshops, what else do you consider when facilitating the actual workshop (for example, location, tutors, materials, etc.)?

Q24 Is there anything you don't currently do in the development and facilitation of workshops that you'd like to do in the future? If yes, please explain.

End of Block: Creating and Facilitating Workshops
