

## Editor's Note

Muriel Harris

This issue of *WLN* begins with an article that responds to the perennial question of how to help tutors improve their tutoring practices. The training method Alex Funt and Sarah Miller Esposito employ involves videotaping tutors as they meet with writers and then having the tutors review their tapes afterwards. Funt and Esposito explain the process and also emphasize the professional development that occurs as the tutors watch those tapes and reflect on what they see and hear.



For those with reading and analytic skills interested in research, Bonnie Devet recommends Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) as a research tool. In addition to explaining the theory and methodology of IPA, Devet notes that it is a “doable method” that draws on skills those in writing centers already have.

This issue also contains several Tutors’ Columns that have waited too long before reaching publication. That tends to happen because we normally have limited space for only one Tutors’ Column per issue. Kristi Girdharry offers her account of how important mindful reading is for students as preparation for writing their papers. Girdharry details one student’s progress as she worked with him to improve his reading habits. Heidi Nobles draws on her experience as a commercial editor to distinguish two types of editors—the copy editor and the substantive editor—and how their roles differ. The distinction provides a useful framework to help tutors examine their roles, especially when working with students who seek the services of a copy editor while tutors see their role as that of substantive editor. Finally, Alexandra Bottelsen, describes her study of student perceptions of their writing center and the extent to which those perceptions match the staff’s efforts to brand themselves. Spoiler alert: the tutors were gratified to find that perceptions on their campus matched the center’s self-image.

In the “stay tuned” mode, *WLN* Associate Editor Elizabeth Kleinfeld is working on a plan to form remote writing groups for writing center folks. Look for announcements in *WLN* issues, on the usual listservs, and the *WLN* blog in the spring.