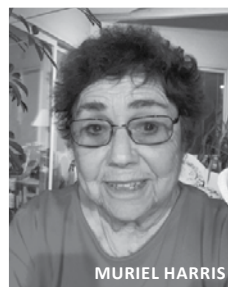


Editor's Note

Muriel Harris

We often assess practices or theories in terms of being *effective* or *useful* or *valid*, but not whether they are *powerful*. Instead, power is often viewed in a less positive light as a state to be *overturned*, *mitigated*, or *denied*. Both the negative and positive aspects of power are aptly demonstrated in Lauren DiPaula's article about the power of stories. After sharing a story of how she made sense of what she heard at a faculty meeting, DiPaula helps us understand the power of stories and the need to generate counterstories when negative stories harm communication.



There is also a power hierarchy in the choice of media we use when tutoring, with some media choices, such as the phone, being viewed as less powerful than others. However, Amy Nejezchleb argues for the value of phone tutorials, reinforcing this power by summarizing the comments of her students who explain why they prefer the phone. To help those not currently offering phone tutorials, Nejezchleb details how and why telephone tutoring was adopted as an option in her writing center. Phone use in writing centers is an especially timely option during this pandemic when some students have returned to homes where internet connections are weak to non-existent.

The next two authors draw on the power of analogies to improve consulting strategies. Focusing on the topic of transfer, Bonnie Devet distinguishes between near and far transfer. To help her tutors understand far transfer, Devet asks tutors to analyze how analogies call upon prior knowledge and can be used for future situations. In another demonstration of the power of analogies, Maya Kuang calls upon the "speedometer method" analogy to illustrate the differing speeds during the writing process. For fellow tutors who want to add this comparison to their tutoring strategies, Kuang breaks down the various stages and the speeds needed as writers move along through composing papers.

For those of us wondering how others in writing centers are coping with the pandemic, the COVID-19 section of the WLN blog has dozens of responses: www.wlnjournal.org/blog.