



Key facts about the Writing Center

- The Writing Center works with writers at all levels, from all disciplines, at all stages of the writing process.
- We are open to all members of the UNL community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff.
- During 2020-21, we offer 40-minute appointments with undergraduate and graduate consultants, virtually all of whom have taken English 380/880: Writing Center Theory, Practice, and Research. Everyone on staff engages in ongoing staff education.
- All forms of communication are welcome, from essays, lab reports, article manuscripts, and research papers to presentations, speeches, cover letters, and personal statements.
- During 2020-21, all of our writing support is taking place online. We offer two options: real-time, video conversations (Online), and email feedback (eTutoring). Students can access both options easily through our scheduling system: <https://unl.mywconline.com>.

How can the Writing Center support me as a course instructor? In many ways!

- We are happy to **visit your class for a brief 10-15 minute introduction** to what we do at the Writing Center. To schedule an appointment, visit unl.edu/writing, go to the “For Instructors” tab, and select “Classroom Presentations and Workshops.”
- We have **information you can include on your syllabus**: visit unl.edu/writing, go to the “For Instructors” tab, and select “Information for your Syllabus.”
- If you’d like to work with us on a **tailored lesson plan regarding a particular writing assignment in your course**, we are happy to work with you. We call these “**co-teach**” sessions since we will work together to develop the lesson plan and present it together to the class. If you are interested in collaborating on a co-teach session, please email Dr. Rachel Azima, Writing Center Director (razima2@unl.edu).
- If you’d like a more extensive partnership with the Writing Center, the **Writing Fellows program** may be a good fit for you! Writing Fellows are Writing Center consultants who work one-to-one with students in a course from disciplines outside of English, giving written feedback and holding individual conferences with students about their writing. For more information, please visit go.unl.edu/writingfellows.
- **We are here for you as a writer yourself!** You can of course make appointments at the Writing Center, and we also periodically offer writing retreats for advanced writers, as well as other write-on-site opportunities.

Sounds good. How do students make appointments?

- They can access our scheduling system at <https://unl.mywconline.com>.

Can I require my whole class to visit the Writing Center?

- Let's talk first. Research does show that students who are required to use writing centers tend to benefit from the experience, but we have a small staff and a limited number of appointments. We need to talk through how to make it manageable and how to set both your students and our staff up for success. It's crucial for your students to know what to expect and how to prepare, so we ask that you talk with us first so we can arrange for a classroom visit and agree on how the requirement will be framed for your students.

Can I require individual students to use the Writing Center, if they are struggling?

- Please do encourage those students to come, but please don't make it a requirement. Although of course we are happy to support writers who are inexperienced or struggling in any way, we do not frame what we do as remedial in nature, and students come to have negative associations with the Writing Center and with writing in general when they are singled out for requirements. A specific referral goes much more smoothly if you have already discussed the benefits of visiting the Writing Center for *all* writers, and particularly for the projects in your class.

Can I have the Writing Center do a presentation while I am away at a conference?

- We're afraid not; it's important for the course instructor to be present to give context to any of the material we discuss. We will not visit if the instructor of record cannot be there. But we are happy to work with whatever amount of class time you have available during class sessions when you will be present.

I'm interested in revising an existing writing assignment or designing a new writing component for my course. Can the Writing Center help me with this?

- Absolutely! Our Director and Assistant Directors not only enjoy talking with writers about writing, but also teachers about teaching. We would be happy to meet with you and help you develop your ideas around writing in your course. Please contact the Director, Dr. Rachel Azima, at razima2@unl.edu.

Where can I find out even more about the Writing Center?

- Please visit unl.edu/writing.

What if I still have more questions?

- Please email the Writing Center at writingcenter@unl.edu or the Director, Dr. Rachel Azima, at razima2@unl.edu.

Write here. Write now.

