

# Write On!

A Weekly Newsletter by The Evergreen State College Writing Center  
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VOLUME II ISSUE IX  
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## Writing Center News:

Scrabblelicious! Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 in the Writing Center!

## Workshops-Week Five

Monday, 2/2: Outlines and Organization 4:30-6:00 Lib. 2219

Wednesday, 2/4: Using Your Sources: Support and Evidence  
4:30-6:00 Lib. 2218

## Tutor of the Week

### SARAH THORN

- **Year:** Senior
- **Focus of study:** Spanish, Women's Studies, Latin American Studies
- **What she looks forward to as a tutor:** Becoming more successful as a tutor, doing workshops in classes
- **Favorite things to tutor:** Non-fiction, Science Papers, Thesis
- **Favorite book:** *All About Love* by bell hooks
- **Favorite book when she was seven:** *The Little Engine that Could*

CAN YOU ...

## STUMP THE TUTOR?

Warren asks, "What are prepositions, and how can I recognize them and learn to use them correctly?"



Well, Warren, I'm glad you asked. Prepositions are words that show *position in space and time*, and they are usually always followed by nouns to form *prepositional phrases*. The most common prepositions are *above, about, across, after, as, among, as well as, at, before, behind, beneath, beside, by, down, during, for, from, in, in addition to, into, inside, instead of, next, next to, onto, opposite, over, round, since, through, toward, under, underneath, up, up to, upon, with, within, and without*. A good rule to apply might be to think of a preposition as a small word, and in most cases, as *anywhere a mouse could go*. Here are some common prepositional phrases: *onto the shelf, by the car, behind the table, into a hole, until twelve noon, through the door, and among the reeds*. Note how each one of these prepositions is followed by a noun, and how the words function together as a prepositional phrase. Learning how to recognize the entire prepositional phrase as a part of a sentence can help you correctly employ grammatical sentences in your writing and make your writing more descriptive and detailed.

## WRITING ABOUT ART

"A work of art has an author, and yet, when it is perfect, it has something which is anonymous about it."

-Simone Weil

Writing about art may seem like a daunting task, especially for someone who identifies herself as an artist. Even if you are a budding artist or an art historian, writing about art can still leave you with the question any writing begins with--where to start? Hunter College has produced a handout (found at [rwc.hunter.cuny.edu/writing/on-line/writeart.html](http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu/writing/on-line/writeart.html)) which does a nice job of walking you through the process of writing about a piece of art. The handout focuses on basic things about the piece, such as subject, frame, and technique, as well as more analytical aspects, such as function, purpose, and importance. One thing I enjoy about this handout is that it addresses more than just painting--sculpture and architecture are included as well.

Hunter College's handout is clear and instructive. For each category of observation, there are lists of questions that may spark some response and prompt your writing. For example, when thinking about composition, the handout encourages you to consider organization, lines, colors, light, and space. Below each of these aspects you can find specific questions to apply to work of art you are critiquing. For example, under "color," you'll find the following questions: *Are they bright or subdued ('saturated' or 'low-key')? Does any color dominate? Are the dominant colors warm (reds, oranges, yellows) or cool (blues, grays, greens)? Are there moderate or extreme contrasts?*

I would encourage employing this handout when writing about art, but also when doing peer review on analytical papers about art. Here are a few other sources, both texts, journals, and online glossaries that you can access for further exploration when writing about art:

**Mary Acton:** *Learning to Look at Paintings*  
*Art Bulletin* and *Art Journal*

**Marcia Pointon:**  
*History of Art: A Student's Handbook.*

**Joshua Taylor:**  
*Learning to Look: A Handbook for the Visual Arts*

*Words of Art*, an online glossary of terms and concepts, at

[www.arts.ouc.bc.ca/fina/glossary/gloshome.html](http://www.arts.ouc.bc.ca/fina/glossary/gloshome.html)