



HOW FACULTY USE (AND DO NOT USE) THE WRITING CENTER

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So far you've been reading about writing and the Writing Center. You may be wondering, "Where does the Writing Center stand regarding my faculty?" It's a reasonable question. After all, we may come to your class and natter at you, or run some kind of workshop. You may be asked (or even required) to come and visit us. However, we've got very little to do with your program faculty. In other words, "What happens in the Writing Center stays in the Writing Center."

Your faculty may request tutors for your program. These folks will generally have an idea of what is going on. Their level of involvement with your faculty varies, ranging from largely working from the Center to running workshops of different sorts in the program itself. No matter how much they interact with your instructors, one thing remains the same: these tutors are here for you first and foremost.

Faculty often require that writers come into the Center *en masse* or individually. Attendance is really up to your instructors; we've got very little to do with it, though we do encourage it. Establishing a relationship with a tutor means that you can work together to create a plan. Want someone to listen to you about your plans for that fifteen page research paper? No need to bribe your roommates—we'll listen for free, and on top of that, we will work with you every step of the way. It's a good idea for any writer to get feedback and to talk about their writing on a regular basis. It's even better for it to be the same person, if only to save you from having to re-explain your paper over and over again.

Let's get something out into the open: we don't talk to the faculty about you. We don't take attendance (we do keep records for our own purposes, though). Our concern is with your writing, nor your attendance. If your faculty says, "Hey, take your paper to the Writing Center and get it signed by a tutor," we don't do it. Simple as that. There are better ways to show you were at the Writing Center: journaling about your session, for example. So write it down. Reflect on the session. Plan. Scheme. Vent. Then turn the entry in. Hey, they asked for it.

So this was the snappy, informal answer to the question of where we (the Writing Center) stand in regard to your faculty. If you want to read this stuff as it was written for faculty, go to www.evergreen.edu/writingcenter and look for the links under "For Faculty/Staff." I won't tell.