

What education theorist Jeff Brooks says about writing tutors applies to tutoring of all kinds: "Fixing flawed papers is easy; showing students how to fix their own papers is complex and difficult." Writing Centers, which provide tutoring in writing and other forms of academic support to students, have been founded at all partner institutions. In addition to offering academic skills workshops, peer tutors, trained by the Center's director, work with students on essays, moderation papers, and senior projects. While providing support for the Core of the Bard curriculum, tutors also help with such issues as time management, study skills, and the mechanics of grammar.

Research has shown that as students -- particularly those working in their second or third language -- "move further away from familiar ways of expressing themselves, the strains on their cognitive and linguistic resources increase, and the number of mechanical and grammatical errors they make shoots up." (Mike Rose *Lives on the Boundary*) The Writing Center staff can help students further these leaps in critical thinking, even as they introduce (or reintroduce) the foundational skills so necessary to educational success. Frequent staff turnover, and the escalating demands of a student body with specific language issues, necessitates recurring trainings of writing center staff, helping them to reach out to both students and faculty as

To this end, the International Coordinator of the Institute of Writing and Thinking, and other IWT associates, consults regularly with both the directors and the tutors at the partner Writing Centers, leading them in such workshops as, "The Do's and Don't's for Working with First-Year Seminar Essays" and faculty workshops on "Best Practices for Working with a Peer Tutor."