

Writing Center: Do's and Don'ts

So – you'd like some extra credit and you're willing to go to the Writing Center. Well, here are some do's and don'ts. Follow these as closely as you can so that we may retain a healthy relationship with the good people over there.

Do:

- Be prepared to talk about your paper, as well as your ideas behind what you want and are trying to say in it. Your tutor cannot read your mind. You have to be willing to speak up and answer questions in a one-on-one setting.

- Bring your prompt to the session. It is best to have the prompt in hand for whatever paper you've brought to them. If not, explain what the prompt asked for. This goes back to speaking up. Different professors ask for different things. Make sure they are helping you to write the best paper you can for this class.

- Be ready to go over something. It is always best to have something to talk about beforehand. That way, the tutor is not wasting time trying to find something to help you with. Go into your session wanting to go over grammar, sentence structure, organization, brainstorming – anything. Know why you're there.¹

- Be respectful. Frankly, this really should go without saying, but I'll repeat it. Be respectful.²

Don't:

- Do not expect the tutor to write, or re-write, your paper for you. The tutor is there to help and illuminate anything I may not have gone over in class that may be beneficial to your writing.

Remember this: you are the one writing your paper. No one else.

- Don't be disrespectful. (I felt the need to repeat this one.)

¹ Simply wanting extra credit isn't enough.

² See how I underlined it? Be respectful!

- Do not get upset with the tutor – ever. He or she is there to help you. (This is an extension of the respect-thing I keep repeating.) As far as I'm concerned, treat them even better than you treat me.³

I know you want that extra credit, but it's not enough to simply go to the Writing Center and demand a signature. You get that at the end, after receiving the help you're going there to for.

Then you re-write your paper. Remember that. This is important. Do not simply give me the signed paper you worked on with the tutor.

Effort. Give me and show me that. Then you'll receive your extra credit.

- Prof. Suarez

³ Perhaps that's not saying much. (Ha-ha.) Seriously, though – this shouldn't be a difficult thing. I know you want extra credit, but you have to put in the effort.