Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Writing Fellows Program

Working with Writing Fellows in Writing Intensive Classes

The WAC trains writing tutors to assist individual professors with student writing in Writing Intensive courses. The Writing Fellow acts a bridge between professor and students in order to strengthen the writing community of the classroom and enhance the teaching of writing.

Who are the Writing Fellows?

WF are undergraduates from a variety of disciplines who are identified by professors who teach them as freshmen as outstanding writers and editors. Most WFs work as writing tutors in the Sewanee Writing Center for at least a semester and take EDU 220, Methods of Teaching Writing, before becoming writing fellows.

What kinds of things can a Writing Fellow do?

While a WF does not grade papers or teach, he or she can do a variety of things that supplement and enhance instruction:

- Assist peer review of papers either in class or outside of class;
- Offer in-class mini-lessons on the writing process and/or a variety of writing skills (i.e. shaping a thesis, writing a conclusion, documenting sources, etc.);
- Model good discussion and learning techniques;
- Hold Writing Center hours to assist with writing and clarify the professor’s expectations for writing and feedback on papers;
- Meet with the professor to discuss observations and insight about how the students are learning;

(WF may sit in on classes, but they are not paid for this)

What are some ways to integrate a WF into the classroom learning environment?

*Communicate and collaborate with your WF.* While the WF aids the students in the class with understanding things like writing assignments and professor feedback, ideally the WF will also collaborate with the professor to help the professor better understand the issues students have as they struggle with writing assignments, rubrics, and feedback. The professor might also have the WF help in the construction of writing prompts for and help structure writing workshops based on the writing problems the WF has seen in student drafts.

- Devote a paragraph in the syllabus to describing the role of the WF and provide contact information;
- Include visits to the WF in the class participation or paper grade;
Make out-of-class peer review mandatory;

Award points to students for attending out-of-class peer review or require students to submit a revision plan to the WF.

How does one apply for a Writing Fellow?

If you teach a Writing Intensive course in any discipline, you may apply to the director of Writing-Across-the-Curriculum for a Writing Fellow.

All faculty who have not worked with a WF should attend the WAC orientation meeting at the beginning of each semester.