

The Writing Center

Directed Learning Activities (DLAs) List



Study a grammar or writing topic and practice independently. Then review the DLA with a specialist. All our DLAs are online.

Essay Development & Organization

- Analytical Vs. Persuasive Thesis
- Basic Paragraph Development
- Conclusions
- Introductions
- Narrative & Descriptive Paragraphs
- Paragraph Development: MEAL
- Summary Skills
- Thesis Statement
- Transitions

Style & Word Choice

- Editing out "To Be" Verbs
- Parallelism
- Understanding POV in Writing
- Connotation vs Denotation
- Thesaurus

Critical Thinking

- Analysis Vs. Summary
- Building Better Analysis
- Identifying Logical Fallacies
- Toulmin Argument Part I

Using Sources & Avoiding Plagiarism

- Annotated Bibliography
- Avoiding Academic Dishonesty
- Chicago Manual of Style
- Evaluating Websites
- Integrating Sources
- APA 7th Edition
- MLA 9th Edition

Sentence Structure & Mechanics

- Apostrophes & Possessives
- Basic Sentence Patterns
- Capitalization
- Comma Splices & Run-Ons Part I
- Comma Splices & Run-ons Part II
- Comma Usage
- Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers
- Fragments

Sentence Structure & Mechanics (continued)

- Parts of Speech
- Pronoun Agreement
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Verb Tense Shifts

Grammar Topics

- Adjective Clauses
- Articles
- Conditionals
- Gerunds & Infinitives
- Modals
- Noun Clauses
- Participial Adjectives
- Passive Voice
- Prepositions
- Reduced Adjective Clauses
- Reduced Adverb Clauses
- Word Forms

Verb Tenses

- Future Tenses
- Past Perfect & Past Perfect Progressive
- Past Tenses
- Present Perfect & Present Perfect Progressive
- Present Tenses

Paralegal

- California Case Citation (The Bluebook)
- California Case Citation (The Yellow Book)
- Introduction to CA Citation (The Yellow Book)
- US Code Citation (The Yellow Book)

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<https://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/dlas.html>