**The Writing Center**

Directed Learning Activities (DLAs) List

Study a grammar or writing topic and practice independently. Then review the DLA with a tutor.

Find all our DLAs online or in the Writing Center, building 26B, room 1561A.

# Essay Development & Organization

* Analytical Vs. Persuasive Thesis
* Basic Paragraph Development
* Conclusions
* Introductions
* Outlining the Essay
* Narrative & Descriptive Paragraphs
* Paragraph Development: MEAL
* Reverse Outlining
* Summary Skills for Academic Writing
* Thesis Statement
* Transitions (updated 2024)

# Style

* Understanding POV in Writing (new)
* Editing Out to Be Verbs (updated 2024)
* Parallelism

# Critical Thinking

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

# Using Sources & Avoiding Plagiarism

* Annotated Bibliography
* APA 7th Edition
* Avoiding Plagiarism
* Evaluating Websites
* Integrating Sources
* MLA 9th Edition

# Sentence Structure & Mechanics

* Ambiguous Pronoun Reference
* Apostrophes & Possessives
* Basic Sentence Patterns
* Capitalization
* Comma Splices & Run-Ons
* Comma Usage
* Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers
* Fragments
* Parts of Speech
* Pronoun Agreement
* Subject-Verb Agreement
* Verb Tense Shifts

# Word Choice

* Connotation & Denotation
* Dictionary Skills
* Thesaurus Skills

# 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 (Blue Book)
* California Case Citation (The Yellow Book)
* Introduction to CA Citation (The Yellow Book)
* US Code Citation (The Yellow Book)

Updated March 2024

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