



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)

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