

AUGUST 2024

WC Newsletter

ISSUE NO. ONE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MT.SAC WRITING CENTER

Welcome to Fall 2024!

"There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees – as if we are all allowed a chance to peel, refresh, and start again." -Ruth Ahmed

Hello, Mt. SAC Faculty!

We hope you all enjoyed your Summer! We are excited to work with you and your students this semester. We've created this Faculty Newsletter that we will send out three times a semester to send you updates, news, and upcoming events related to our services.

Please take a look at everything we are working on this Fall!



● IN THIS ISSUE



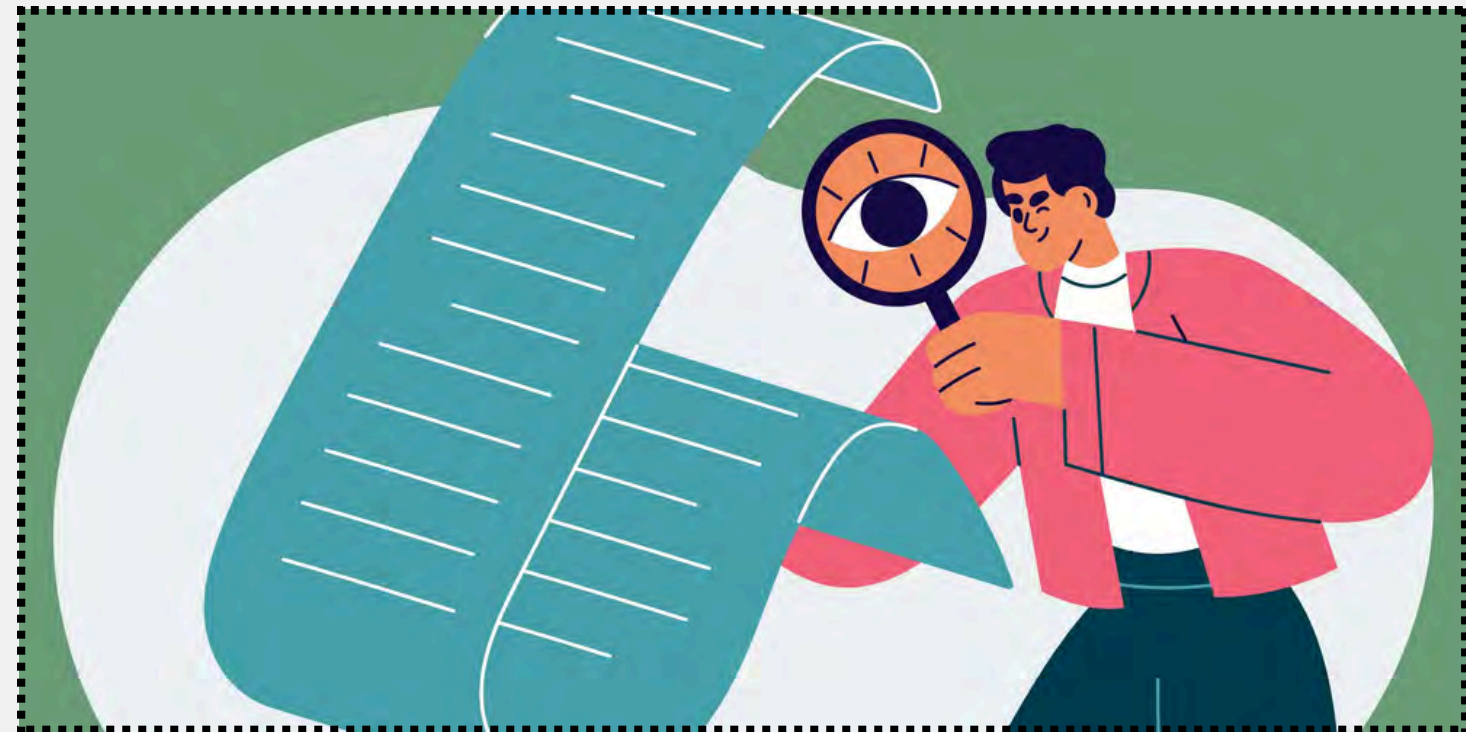
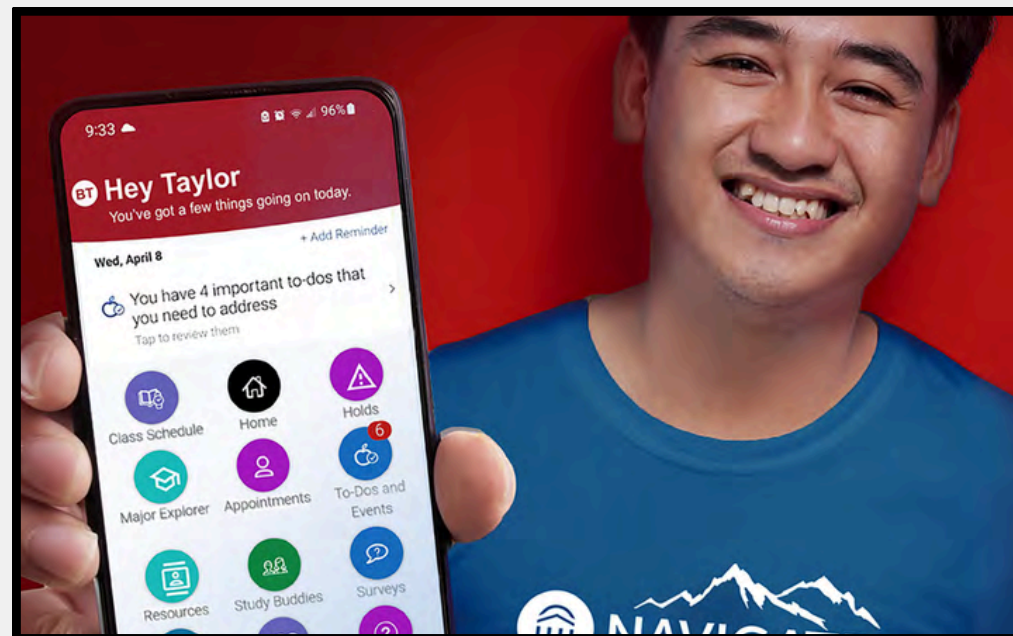
Proof of Tutoring Changes

TSR info is now available on EAB Appointment Summaries

In our move to EAB Navigate, we have eliminated our need for TSRs. Instead, we have created spreadsheets for instructors to keep track of which students have attended Writing Center appointments and/or received asynchronous feedback.

To make it easier for our staff to keep track of, we will utilize Excel spreadsheets through Google Drive. Each instructor will have their own spreadsheet that will be updated 1-2 times per week by our staff. All proof of attendance is now being sent virtually and directly to instructors in this way, including for in-person sessions.

Please check your email at the beginning of each semester!



Asynchronous Feedback

This “paper drop-off” service is designed to help Mt. SAC students improve their writing. By choosing this service, students will receive help in recognizing recurrent errors, finding ways to organize ideas, and becoming better at identifying how to improve their own writing! It works best for complete or near complete essay drafts.

Encourage your students, especially in online classes, to submit their work via our [Smartsheet Link](#) for asynchronous review by one of our Writing Center specialists!

We will normally deliver feedback via email within 24-48 hours of submission although longer time is possible in high traffic times.

Dedicated Writing Specialist

Formerly TC (Tutor in the Classroom) Program



*Request a Dedicated Writing Specialist
for your writing classes today!*

To reflect the changing needs and working habits of today's students, the Writing Center is proud to roll out a new **Embedded Writing Support Program: The Dedicated Writing Specialist Program**. This transition is not merely a new name, but also a shift in focus, as we transition from a classroom-based model to a program better able to address student needs for flexible, multimodal academic support that is able to provide more just-in-time outside the classroom supplemental assistance. This model will allow us to use our limited time and budget to provide more writing and learning support when students need it most – when they are working outside your classroom.

A Dedicated Writing Specialist (DS) is assigned to provide support to specific writing-intensive courses (with priority given to First-year Composition and AMLA 90 sections). DSs lead supplemental group sessions and provide individual outside of class time in addition to assisting with several hours of in-class time every week. They provide a collaborative and interactive learning environment where students can improve their understanding of the course through additional practice and reinforcement of class materials. **Note:** DSs are not guaranteed for all English levels due to budget restrictions.

If you'd like to request a DS for your writing classes, please use our [Dedicated Writing Specialist Request form](#). If you have any further questions or issues regarding this process, please email Trista Payte (tpayte@mtsac.edu).

Online Workshops

Fall workshops start Week 2!

Every semester, we host virtual 1-hour long writing workshops that cover various topics, such as citation styles, research, grammar, thesis statements, analysis, and more!

At the end of each month, we put out the next month's calendar, and students can register for them on our website at <https://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/workshops.html>

Please encourage your students to register for workshops and consider sharing the monthly calendars to your Canvas pages!

SEPTEMBER 2024 Online Workshops					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
NO WORKSHOP	HOLIDAY CAMPUS CLOSED	Annotating & Notetaking w/ Joyce 1-2pm	NO WORKSHOP	Essay Refresh w/ Chase 3-4pm	NO WORKSHOP
Prewriting & Outlining Strategies w/ Elona 12-1pm	Basic Paragraph Writing w/ Joyce 2-3pm	Building Your Thesis Statement w/ Joyce 1-2pm	Developing Analytical Paragraphs w/ Jackie 5-6pm	Fixing Fragments, Run-ons, & Comma Splices w/ Chase 3-4pm	Writing Successful Summaries w/ Elona 1-2pm
NO WORKSHOP	Writing Simple & Compound Sentences w/ Joyce 2-3pm	MLA Made Easy w/ Joyce 1-2pm	NO WORKSHOP	APA Made Easy w/ Chase 3-4pm	NO WORKSHOP
Finding & Evaluating Sources w/ Elona 12-1pm	Using Quotations & Paraphrases w/ Joyce 2-3pm	Incorporating Sources Effectively w/ Joyce 1-2pm	Understanding & Avoiding Plagiarism w/ Jackie 5-6pm	Conquering Commas w/ Chase 3-4pm	Writing with Flow w/ Elona 1-2pm
Revising for Success w/ Jackie 12-1pm	Proofreading Like a Pro w/ Joyce 2-3pm				

NOTE:



Hacking English 1A: New GPS-funded Workshops

Following the GPS (Guided Pathways to Success) grant that was awarded in Spring '24, the Writing Center has kicked off its pilot of "Hacking English 1A," a workshop series geared towards bridging the gap to success for students enrolled in Freshman Composition classes.

The six workshops that we are piloting in Fall are:

- A Guide to Hacking English 1A
- Reading Smarter, Not Harder
- Unpacking the Prompt
- Managing Your Time with Writing & Research
- Stress Less
- AI: The Good, The Bad, The Reality

We'd love it if professors teaching sections of English 1A were willing to make these workshops part of their curriculum and help us in our pilot program. If you'd like to participate or get more information, please email Trista Payte at tpayte@mtsac.edu.



Construction updates...

The Writing Center is being remodeled to better accommodate Mt. SAC students and the academic support professionals and student workers that support them. The Writing Center has not been remodeled in over a decade, and the ways in which students want to engage with us and our space has changed.

Phase one of the remodel began in summer, which means the Writing Center is now operating out of the two back classrooms, 1555 and 1563. The rest of the Writing Center is officially under construction. The tentative time for us to move to phase two, in which we will move back into the front and the two classrooms will undergo remodel, is end of fall 2024. **Our hopeful completion is summer 2025.**

Note: Unfortunately, due to our limited space with the remodel, we can no longer reserve our computer lab for classes.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we grow to better accommodate our shared students!



Upcoming Fall Events:



- **Build Your Planner Event**
 - Wednesday, Sep. 4
- **Banned Books Week**
 - Sep. 22-28; stay tuned for more info on specific events
- **Spooky Story Contest**
 - Submissions open from Oct. 1- 31; winners announced 1st week of November
- **Writer's Block Party**
 - Open lab study/research sessions during Week 15



**We hope you have a great Fall semester
from all of us here at The Writing Center!**



✨ **“Empowering Voices, Inspiring Minds”** ✨



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