

# The NMU Writing Center: A Comprehensive Review

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## Location and Hours

The NMU Writing Center is located in LRC111G to the left of Fieras and through the double doors. We are open Sunday from 1-6PM, Monday through Thursday from 10AM-4PM and 6-9PM, and on Friday from 10AM-2PM.

We open during the second week of the semester and closed during finals week.

## Role of the Writing Center

We provide free, walk-in writing tutoring for NMU staff and students. Generally, writers work with peer tutors on a single piece of writing for 30-45 minutes. Tutorials are visitor led, so be prepared to be vocal and involved during the session. Our tutors can help you with any stage of the writing process, including interpreting the assignment's requirements and brainstorming ideas.

## Peer Tutors

Our writing tutors are undergraduate and graduate students at NMU. Every tutor has completed a semester-long training course readying them to work with writers and writing of all kinds. Our tutors work to encourage you to develop writing skills and habits that will benefit your writing long past the end of the 30-45 minute session. In other words, we want to create better writers, not just better writing. This means the tutor will ask a lot of questions and guide you toward finding the answers on your own.

## The Tutorial

A staff member will greet you when you enter the WC and ask you to sign in using the laptop at the front desk. Be prepared to provide your name, the course in which the writing is assigned, and the class's instructor.

If a tutor is immediately available, she will greet you and bring you back to a table to begin the session. Sometimes, you may need to wait a couple minutes until a tutor becomes available.

Once you are seated at a table with a tutor, he will ask you to fill out a questionnaire called a T-Record or Tutorial Record. The questionnaire includes details about the assignment, your questions or concerns about it, and after the session, a summary of the work you and your tutor completed during the session. Shortly after the session, you will receive a copy of the T-Record via email.

## How to Prepare for a Tutorial

There are a number of ways you can prepare for a productive tutorial. In terms of materials, be sure to bring:

1. Your laptop
2. A pen or pencil
3. The assignment sheet or prompt
4. Any feedback you've received from an instructor or a peer review group

It is also helpful to have an idea of what you'd like to work on with the tutor. Are you having a hard time starting an assignment? Developing your ideas? Organizing them?

The more information your tutor has, the better she can help you.

Try to avoid last minute tutorials. Bringing an essay to the WC at 10:30 when the essay is due at 11:00 will place undue pressure on you and your tutor.

### **Benefits of Tutoring**

Every piece of writing can benefit from a read-through by someone who isn't as close to the subject or process as you are. Because we often write with an audience in mind, your tutor can stand in for that audience by pointing out where he isn't sure of your message or content to make sure you're communicating as clearly as possible.

Visiting the NMU Writing Center will help you refine your writing habits. We will show you techniques you can employ on your own next time, so that writing will become easier and easier for you over time.

Finally, visiting us can often demonstrate dedication to your instructor. Going the extra mile by visiting the WC reflects positively on you as a student and shows that you care about your continued success and improvement in the instructor's class. It never hurts!

### **Other Services**

#### Online tutoring

If you are unable to come to campus but would still like help from a writing tutor, we encourage you to use our online tutoring services. Visit <https://www.nmu.edu/writingcenter/online-tutoring> for more information.

#### Resources

We have lots of handouts and books about writing! You are welcome to come in and flip through them, even if you're not interested in a tutorial at that time. We're also happy to answer quick questions (Does this comma go here? Is this one source cited correctly) in lieu of a full-length tutorial.

### **Please note**

The NMU Writing Center is not a drop off editing service. We are a teaching service, which means tutors will not "fix" your writing for you. Instead, we'll help you find and revise areas for improvement on your own.

We do not ensure or guarantee any grade.

### **For More Information**

<http://www.nmu.edu/writingcenter/>

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