

MOOVELOUS WRITING NEWS

THE BLUEFIELD COLLEGE WRITING CENTER NEWSLETTER
FACULTY/STAFF ISSUE

TIPS FOR TEACHING WRITING

We share common definitions of the term "writing" if we limit it to something like "putting pen to paper" or "typing ideas into a computer." However, if we more closely define elements of the writing act, the definition comes to life. The following list might prompt your thinking about elements of the writing process. The list is not definitive, but it may serve as a starting place where you might begin to think about how writing happens for your students and for you.

- **Writing is a response.** We write because we are reacting to something, someone, or some other piece of language.
- **Writing is linear.** In order to communicate reasonably and effectively, we need to order our words and ideas up on the page in ways that make sense to a reader.
- **Writing is recursive.** As we write, we constantly rewrite. The process of writing and then reviewing, changing, rewriting is a natural and an important part of shaping expression for an anticipated audience.
- **Writing is both subject and object.** We take writing as evidence of a subject or subjective position. That said, writing also serves as an object for us, a "piece" or a "paper" that has known shapes, sizes, and functions determined by genre and conventions.
- **Writing is decision making.** It may seem obvious, but in order to get something on the page, a writer chooses the words, the order of the words in the sentence, the grouping of sentences into paragraphs, the order of the paragraphs within a piece.
- **Writing is a process.** No matter how an individual describes her process (e.g., "First I think about my idea then dump ideas onto the computer," or "I make an outline then work out topic sentences...") each person (usually unconsciously) negotiates the series of choices required in her individual context and produces a draft that begins to capture a representation of his or her "idea."

**As adapted from "What is Writing?" The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

As the semester progresses, remind your students that they can avoid falling grades by visiting the Writing Center to get free tutoring, meet in study groups, or study on their own.



ON-YOUR-HONOR BOOK SALE!

The Writing Center has a wide variety of books available. Stop by and make your selection any time! Donations benefit the Writing Center.

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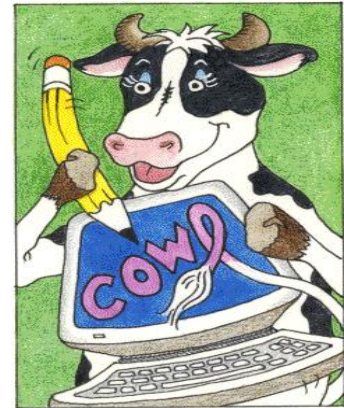
Hours:

Monday: 10-11:30 a.m., 1:30-3 p.m.

Tuesday: 12-1 p.m.

Wednesday: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

COWL 24/7



MEET THE STAFF

Mickey Pellillo:

Writing Center Director and Tutor

Wendy Beavers:

*Writing Center Assistant, Tutor
and COWL Webmaster*

Crystal Kieloch:

COWL Supervisor and Tutor

James "Smokey" Shott:

Tutor, Community member

Alyce Loeser:

Tutor, Student

Alyce Loeser is an English major from Farmville, Virginia, who has been tutoring for two semesters. She tutors in the Writing Center from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and on COWL on Friday mornings.

"I think the Writing Center is such an incredible tool available to BC students. I would love to see it utilized more!" said Alyce.

Besides tutoring, Alyce enjoys writing and playing the piano