



## Questions about Academic Writing

We get many questions about academic writing, and to answer the most common of all “what is academic writing?” we like to quote Peter Elbow, university teacher and writer, famous for his many books on writing:

“What would seem central ... is the giving of reasons and evidence rather than just opinions, feelings, experiences: being clear about claims and assertions rather than just implying or insinuating; getting thinking to stand on its own two feet rather than leaning on the authority of who advances it or who hears it ... Are we not engaged in schools and colleges in trying to teach students to produce reasons and evidence which hold up on their own, rather than just in terms of the tastes or prejudices of readers or how attractively they are packaged?”



## Make an appointment

Call (519) 884-0710 ext. 2220  
or email [learningservices@wlu.ca](mailto:learningservices@wlu.ca)

or

Visit the Writing Centre in person  
during Drop-In Hours

**LOCATION: DAWB 1-102**

Website: [www.wlu.ca/writing](http://www.wlu.ca/writing)

- FAQ on appointments
- Information about writing workshops
- Comprehensive selection of handouts and links to great academic writing sites

### Regular Hours:

Daily 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Drop-In Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 4 – 8 p.m.  
Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

## Come meet our staff:

- Margot Snyder, Administrative Assistant, Learning Services, ext. 2220, email: [learningservices@wlu.ca](mailto:learningservices@wlu.ca)
- Undergraduate Student Tutors, top students who are trained, paid, and with a GPA of 10 or above
- Boba M. Samuels, PhD Candidate, Writing Consultant, ext. 3869, email: [bsamuels@wlu.ca](mailto:bsamuels@wlu.ca)
- Emmy Misser, MA, Manager, Writing Centre, ext. 3339, email: [emisser@wlu.ca](mailto:emisser@wlu.ca)

# LAURIER

## Writing Centre

Wilfrid Laurier University

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# LAURIER

## Writing Centre



Sharpen your  
writing skills ...  
and sharpen  
your thinking

Using the  
Writing Centre:  
A Guide  
for Students



[www.wlu.ca/writing](http://www.wlu.ca/writing)

## At the Writing Centre you will:

- Get help understanding the assignment
- Find out what academic writing is
- Sound out your ideas and discover if your essay makes sense
- Get constructive feedback
- Learn to take a critical stance
- Get help setting up an argument
- Learn how to use sources in academic writing
- Discover the importance of evidence and examples
- Learn why grammar and punctuation matter
- Learn good revision strategies

## Regular 50-Minute Appointments:

- Call 884-0710, ext. 2220, or email [learningservices@wlu.ca](mailto:learningservices@wlu.ca)
- What to bring: Your paper, the assignment, and a desire to learn

## Drop-In Hours (posted on the website):

- For quick answers to questions about academic writing
- For short papers
- For suggestions on writing resources

*Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.*

*Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.*

## *What happens during an appointment:*

When you visit the Writing Centre, one of our tutors or the Writing Consultant will read your paper and give you constructive feedback.

## *The tutor will look at:*

- The thesis statement and how you set it up
- The argument and how it is developed
- Progression of ideas, structure, and coherence
- The use of sources and how they are integrated
- Paragraphs and how they relate to the thesis
- Word choice and precision
- Sentence construction and punctuation
- Grammar

## *The Writing Centre:*

- has a resource library on academic writing and writing in the disciplines
- maintains a comprehensive website, [www.wlu.ca/writing](http://www.wlu.ca/writing) that provides information about scheduling appointments, details about upcoming workshops, links to advice on academic writing in general and specific assignment types, and handouts
- Does in-class presentations on writing in the disciplines at the request of professors

## University-Wide Workshops

### *Two series of workshops:*

#### **Series A** *Writing in university: Context counts*

- Essay writing 101
- Academic writing I: Writing, academic integrity, and academic misconduct
- Academic writing II: Using sources
- Thesis or hypothesis?
- Writing arguments
- Writing essay exams: Not your average essay!

#### **Series B** *Writing: Textual basics and details*

- Developing strong paragraphs
- Mastering sentence writing
- Common grammar errors
- Features of the 'A' paper
- Effective introductions and conclusions

All workshops are advertised across campus, on the Laurier website, and on our website [www.wlu.ca/writing/workshops](http://www.wlu.ca/writing/workshops)



## What we do:

- Help you at any stage of the writing process
- Help all students, undergraduate and graduate

## What we don't do:

- Edit your paper for you. Our goal is to teach you to become better at revising your own writing
- Come up with ideas for your paper. We prod you to do the thinking
- Work with you on take-home exams without your instructor's permission

## What we would like you to do:

- Start your assignment early
- Choose a topic that excites you so that you are motivated to engage critically with your material and sources
- Write more than one draft to give yourself time for critical reflection
- Revise the paper with the reader in mind. You understand the draft you wrote, but your instructor may not

**So please make an appointment!**

## **NEW:** Assignment Planner

*Plot Your Path*

Try our online writing planner to help you plan and write your next assignment.

[wlu.ca/writing/planner](http://wlu.ca/writing/planner)

