



JUST WRITE!



Quarterly Newsletter of the University Writing Center at UCF

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JUST WRITE!



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS:

We welcome you to the latest edition of *Just Write!*, a newsletter organized and sponsored by the UCF University Writing Center. This edition was created by Mia Pelletier, Nic Giuli, Rachel Stillword, and Shia Kirby. We'd like to extend thanks to our writing center leaders, Mariana Chao, Matthew Bryan, and Deborah Weaver. Their support has made this newsletter possible. Additionally, thanks to all our writers who take the time to bring their work to the center. You all make the UWC the incredible space that we know and love.

The UWC cares deeply about the population of writers that it serves. The center facilitates so many identities across all backgrounds, and despite all of these differences, there is still one common thread — an equal appreciation of writing. This edition of the newsletter is meant to highlight the diverse nature of writers and the types of work they create. From inspiring personal writing journeys to fascinating deep-dives on writing across the majors, we hope this edition captures how proud the UWC is of each and every writer who has found themselves within the walls of the center.

On that note, we're happy to introduce a brand new column that shares a bit of the center with you and our final Directors Write piece from our very beloved UWC Director, Deborah Weaver. We hope you enjoy perusing *Just Write!*, and we hope something here inspires you to come write with us!

FROM THE EDITORS:



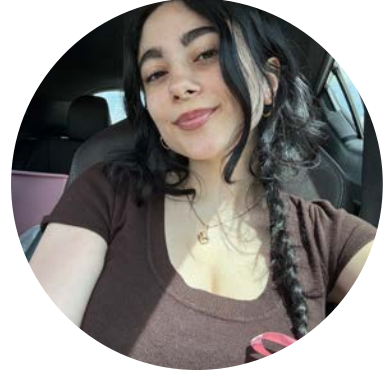
NIC GIULI



SHIA KIRBY



RACHEL STILLWORD



MIA PELLETIER

DIRECTORS WRITE

Deborah Weaver
Director of the UWC

Spring is in full force, and along with the blooming Salvia and Bougainvillea, brings another end to a semester and the end to my five-year appointment as the Writing Center Director. Whew! In my first year, we operated in remote spaces and other than weekly zoom meetings, we did not see each other. Now, as I walk through the center on a Friday afternoon, it is vibrant, a place where tutors and writers huddle together collaborating on writing.

While peer tutoring is the primary focus of the work tutors do, the center's energy shifted five years ago when tutors took reign of a newsletter Just Write, tripled the followers on social media, created themed Open Mic events, hosted Book Swaps, and served on various committees – all efforts that improved the operations and collaborative environment we have here. And with larger inquiry projects and smaller presentations, as well as the summer projects, tutors have continued to explore alternatives for how the center can better serve writers and build a more inclusive learning environment.

Yet, the thing I am most proud of is the collaborative work we have done not only in establishing six values related to our practices, but also how tutors have worked year after year to embed those values into sessions, interactions with each other, and scholarly discussions in the center. We know what we stand for and point all goals towards that vision. That is impressive folks.

In the twenty-five years here at UCF, I have served as the department scheduler, an advisor, a composition coordinator, the Editor of Imprint, and of course, a faculty member. Each of these roles have helped me grow as a person and have been rewarding in their own ways. However, nothing has brought me more joy than my time in the writing center. Nothing. This has been a dream job, and for that, I am grateful.

It is with a heavy heart that I say good-bye. Much of my identity is wrapped in being an administrator and teacher, but it is time for the other identities I carry to have a seat at the table. I will miss you and being a part of your lives. Please know that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with you in the center. Thank you for all your support and hard work.

Until we meet again,

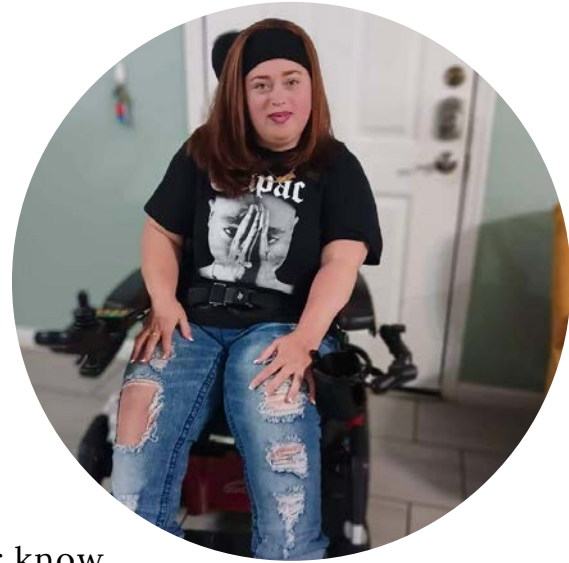
Weaver

WRITERS WRITE

GIANNA NICOLE GONZÁLEZ

The University Writing Center at UCF's Main Campus in Orlando, Florida has helped me gain my confidence not only as a student, but also as a writer. I was once a fully online student with special needs who struggled academically. At one point in my college career, I felt lost and didn't know where to go or who to turn to for help. It wasn't until a web-based professor mentioned to me the possibility of getting one-on-one, hands-on assistance with my writing at the UWC that I decided to give it a try. Ever since then, my whole mindset, college career, and writing abilities have changed for the better.

I was embarrassed at the fact that I could not accomplish writing assignments on my own and needed help. It took having my professor telling me that I was failing my courses in order for me to muster up the courage to ask for assistance. It's okay to ask for help — you are not alone. Because Spanish is my first language, I was very scared and timid. I was unsure if the writing center would be able to assist me in a manner where I could comprehend my assignments, give me the tools to correct grammatical errors in my writing, and allow me to learn and become a better writer for the future.



If you are unsure about seeking help, do it. You'll never know unless you take a chance. I'm so glad I took a leap of faith, and now I excel in all of my academics and have the confidence I need to succeed and complete any writing assignment independently on my own, all without doubting myself for a lack of skills. If not for the writing center, I would not have the confidence I have in myself as both a student and writer. My experiences at the UWC and throughout my college career is something I will never forget, and I will always be grateful and appreciative to those who work in the writing center, as well as previous UCF alumni, who work personally with students to help them become a better version of themselves and succeed in their writing journeys.

I would like to say thank you to the University Writing Center at UCF's Main Campus from the bottom of my heart for allowing me the opportunity to write about my experiences within the center and for giving me the skills I need to have in life. Remember, never be afraid to tackle your fears — you never know until you try. The only one holding you back is you. You have to fail in order to succeed, and you must be confident. You can do it. Never give up on yourself. We all have the ability to become great writers and do great things in life, and if you push yourself, you can do anything you put your mind to. The UWC is the place to go if you want to become successful. It is such an honor to be a Knight.

Sincerely,

Gianna Nicole González

INDUSTRIAL- ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Industrial-Organizational (I-O) Psychology students use an informative writing style that emphasizes clarity, objectivity, and evidence-based reasoning. Their writing often focuses on workplace behavior, employee performance, leadership, and organizational effectiveness. Students are trained to present data-driven insights, relying on empirical research, statistics, and psychological theories to support their claims. The tone is formal and precise, avoiding emotional or biased language. Reports, research papers, and case studies are structured with clear headings, concise summaries, and logical flow. I-O psychology writing often includes APA formatting and integrates scholarly sources to reinforce credibility. The goal is to inform and persuade professional audiences- such as HR professionals, executives, or researchers-about workplace issues and solutions. Whether analyzing job satisfaction, diversity initiatives, or training programs, students aim to communicate findings in a way that promotes practical, ethical, and data-supported improvements in organizational settings. Ultimately, informative writing in I-O psychology bridges theory with real-world application.

-SHIVANI VAKHARIA

JUST WRITE!

HEALTH SCIENCES

In Health Sciences, we do a lot of writing, from short discussion posts to multiple-page research papers. Some of the most important tips I have is to think critically about the information being taught, make connections between classes, and apply them to real life. I also think it is important to consider how these assignments translate into writing within the medical field; therefore, there's a need to explain ideas logically and concisely.

Finally, pretty much everything in Health Sciences writing uses APA format, and for assignments that need credible sources, the UCF Library is one of the best places to look. Oh, and one more tip...don't procrastinate!

-ABIGAIL ADAMS

STUDIO ART

When writing an artist statement, it is easy to be overly formal and lengthy in an attempt to sound professional and academic. However, I've found that this comes at the cost of genuine, clear expression, making the statement sound vague and forced while adding nothing to the viewing of the piece(s).

I think it helps to write a first draft without worrying about tone at all, just focusing on what context about the making and/or meaning of the art would elevate it. Making a list of the significant details can also help give direction, such as materials, subject, composition, etc. Think of the things that a viewer wouldn't know about by just looking at it, and how they're impression of it might change if they did. This can be anything from a personal motivation to the actual process of making the piece.

-NIC GIULI

STEPS TO SUCCESS

A whimsical illustration at the bottom of the page features a black and yellow striped bee flying over a cluster of blue and orange flowers. A small white rabbit with pink ears is positioned near a yellow flower. The entire scene is set against a background of green foliage and a small white flower.

Starlight, Stars Write!

SHIA KIRBY

In a mood to write, but not sure where to begin? Use this column to choose a writing prompt based on your astrological sign! Let the stars take charge of your fate and inspire you to create a stellar piece. Still want to write more? Follow the prompts for both your moon and rising signs to extend the fun!

Capricorn: Capricorns are known for this observant nature towards the world. Write a short story about something you've observed lately. This can be anything, from a quick interaction at the store to the new hair color spotted on your best friend. Describe to your audience as much as you can recall about the experience, using your imagination and creativity to world-build where you can!

Aquarius: Aquarians are adventurers at heart and love to explore exciting new things. With a curious personality, they can create a whole new world with oddities at large. Write a short story about an adventure in a far off place. Describe to your audience where you would go, what would you do, and the quests you'd face in your travels!

Pieces: Dreamy and emotional, Pieces can often find themselves in a writer's block because they have so many passionate stories to share. To combat this, journal about a strong feeling that you've had recently. Describe to your audience in detail what it felt like to experience this, visualizing exactly how you felt in that moment!

Aries: Aries are full of a fiery fascination towards actions. Write a short action plot of your choice. The specific genre should be whatever you gravitate towards the most, such as fantasy, superheroes, or thrillers. Think about how you would respond in these situations, and write your main characters based off of these traits!

Taurus: Taureses appreciate the peaceful and grounded things in life. To reflect on this, write a short poem about something or someone that brings you comfort and peace. This could be a person, thing, place, or action that you take. Describe to your audience what it feels like to be soothed and relaxed by whatever you choose!

Gemini: Due to their quick wit, Geminis are able to bring a crowd to tears from laughter. Think of an audience that you would love to entertain for a comedy show. Write a comedy standup script, imagining what jokes will be a complete hit for both yourself and your target audience!

Starlight, Stars Write!

SHIA KIRBY

Cancer: Cancers value time to reflect and retreat back to their comfort spaces, such as their homes. Write a short story about your own home. Describe to your audience what it's like to go home after a long day, the atmospheres of different rooms, and the joy you experience once you've settled back into your comfort space!

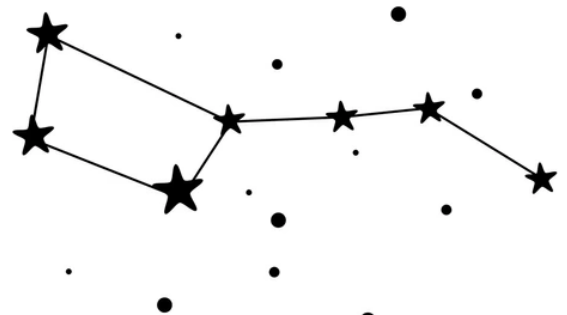
Leo: Leos are all-knowing when it comes to things that everyone should know. Write a blog post about any recent event. This can include celebrity drama, fashion trends, movie and book reviews, or anything pop culture related. Describe to the audience the excitement and buzz surrounding this event, as well as your own reactions to whatever is going on!

Virgo: Virgos are intentional and love writing things grounded in reality, especially when the writing is done for others. Write a short letter to someone you know. This can be a love letter to a significant other, a thank you letter to someone who's offered their support, or a letter to your future self. Describe to your audience how you feel about them and offer personalized words of encouragement!

Libra: Libras are not only masters of creative writing, but they are also crafty when it comes to other forms of art. Create a graphic short story about your favorite type of art. You can use all forms of art, including drawings, clay sculptures, and animation. Use your visuals and words together to paint a clear picture to your audience!

Scorpio: Scorpios are very intense and deep, allowing them to be in turn with a wide variety of emotions. Write a poem about an intense emotion. Describe this emotion to your audience using vivid imagery that moves them to share the same feeling. For an extra challenge, tap into your creativity by using symbolism, metaphors, and personification!

Sagittarius: To Sagittariuses, a good story is never complete without some additional flair. Write about an event that has happened to you recently and improvise an over-the-top retelling of what occurred. Hold nothing back when it comes to dramatizing every little detail to create something truly engaging!



This Semester at the UWC

SHIA KIRBY, MIA PELLETIER, RACHEL STILLWORD, & NIC GIULI

Open Mic Night

Our shining Knights took the stage on March 5, 2025 to share their out-of-this world works at the UWC's annual Spring Open Mic Night! UCF students came together to read their works of fiction, poetry, and favorite lyrics under the starry night sky — that is, of course, the UWC's very own main center!

The works presented at Open Mic Night were truly one of a kind. These works evoked a multitude of emotions, from a dreamy song that inspired feelings of love to a poem of loss that moved the audience to tears. The winner of our Open Mic Night, Sophia Rodríguez, delivered a beautiful piece about personal loss and grief. The local singer and songwriter shared that she had no prior experience in reading her personal work aloud to an audience before and was honored to have the opportunity to do so. We are so proud to foster a community at the center that opens its arms to all writers who are looking for a safe space to share their stories and creativity with others.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the production of the event, and thank you to everyone who showed up to this star-studded event!

Valentine's Day Book Swap

On February 11, 2025, the UWC celebrated love with its Valentine's Day Book Swap! During this special event, the UCF community came together to swap books and share their love of reading with the community.

Writers could come take a book, leave a book, and write an inspiring message for the community to read. Our volunteers who tabled for the event remarked on the amazing turnout and the wide variety of books that the community engaged with. There was even a large crowd that came by, excited to leave a book and grab one of the delicious cookies that were present for the book swap.

The messages that were being left were also very inspiring. Madi Alvarez, one of the volunteers who tabled that day, further detailed how excited everyone was to write a motivational message for the community. When it came to deciding what to write, she said that everyone should "follow [their] heart on what to leave."



This Semester at the UWC

SHIA KIRBY, MIA PELLETIER, RACHEL STILLWORD, & NIC GIULI

Writing Groups

This past semester at the UWC, our graduate tutors led ENC 1101 online writing groups. These groups allowed our ENC 1101 writers a space to work, receive feedback, and ask questions without pressure to engage. Tutors were there as additional support if needed, but the groups mainly served as a space dedicated to working on ENC 1101 assignments.

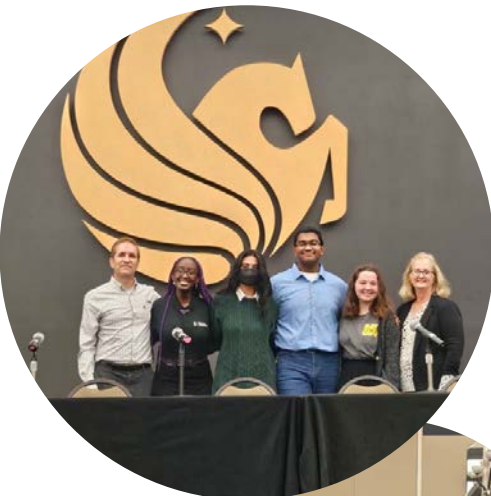
The First-Year Writing Program is important to the work done here at the center, as tutors work consistently with ENC 1101 & 1102 students on their major assignments. Many professors in the department and within the program require consultations with us or offer extra credit for them, so finding ways to support these writers in a meaningful way is important to us. Increasing tutor education on course learning outcomes and providing additional resources for these students to succeed allows us to continue working alongside instructors within the department.

Knights Write Showcase

We'd like to give a big shout out to UWC tutors Shia Kirby, Rachel Stillword, and Khushi Patel for their panel:

"Fostering Civil Discourse Through Cross Generational Conversations." The panel was done in collaboration with One Small Step, covering workshops held by the UWC in partnership with the Learning Institute for Elders and the work done in the Writing and Civic Engagement class with One Small Step.

The panel focused on principles we hold near and dear in the UWC, such as rhetorical listening and fostering productive conversation and connection across divisions. The stories and experiences shared gave incredible insight into the transformative power of genuine conversations across differences. The UWC is also proud to highlight Lea Wright and Hannah Benton, two UWC tutors who participated in the presentation board showcase. That evening, Benton walked away with two awards for her incredible research. Thank you to all who came to support the UWC and UCF's writers!



"Being surrounded by so many talented writers and academics pushed me to pursue challenging opportunities like research and conference presentations. I wouldn't have had the confidence to do any of this without the support of my fellow tutors and the UWC."

- Hannah Benton
UWC Undergraduate Tutor

Values Spotlight

MIA PELLETIER

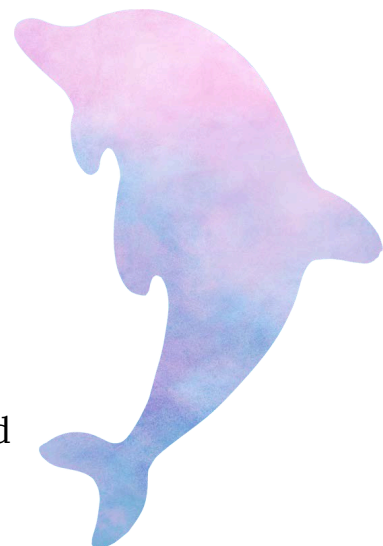
RESPECT

At the UWC, we operate under a system of values and practices that inform how each tutor approaches a session. While we all may diverge in strategies or routines, the core of our practices relies on adhering to these values. The first value outlined for tutors is respect. Respect can be defined in a variety of ways, but in regard to writing, it's grounded in the boundaries set between ourselves and our writers to ensure co-agency in our sessions, all while allowing the writer space to be authentic without imposing on their work or process. It is imperative that we as tutors serve to empower and uplift our writers' voices, and respect is often where this starts.

While there may be times when a writer comes in with genuine concerns about their writing, it is never a tutor's job to insert their own voice into a writer's piece. Respect means offering suggestions and pointing to scholarship and resources when correcting a mistake. I always make it clear with my writers that my comments are merely suggestions, and that they can take what works and leave what doesn't. That is the beauty of collaborative writing spaces like the UWC. There is always room for negotiation, whether that be in the agenda or the feedback a writer receives. Nothing is absolute or concrete.

Respect means asking the writer questions before offering feedback. Asking for clarification before immediately pivoting to "this doesn't look right" can make a world of difference in establishing a positive experience between you and your writer. It is important to see beyond writing conventions and understand the value of stylistic choices in writing. While there are times these stylistic choices may be incorrect, taking a minute to clarify with your writer what they meant by something will allow you to provide them the best support in effectively and appropriately communicating their ideas while also supporting the writer's authenticity.

Writers have a responsibility to respect the collaborative nature of a session. Tutors should set expectations at the start of the session so that the writer understands how we operate, and once this understanding is established, it should be honored by both parties. Our values extend beyond just tutors and apply to everyone who enters our space. We never want to take away anyone's voice, so talking through any and all revisions is essential to our work. We are not a "fix-it shop" and we are not here to make revisions for you. Our work is meant to empower our writers to take what they've learned and apply it to future assignments, and respect plays a large role in this.





UWC Flash Fiction Contest



Are you interested in creative writing? Do you want an opportunity to be published? Are you looking to be more involved in UWC events? If you answered yes to any of those questions, the UWC Semi-Annual Flash Fiction Contest! Each semester, a new color is chosen to be the element that writers must creatively push themselves to incorporate throughout their piece in a meaningful manner. The winner of the contest is selected by Just Write editors, and winners are given the opportunity to have their work published in the newsletter! This opportunity extends to writers of all stages, and the UWC can support all writers through the drafting process! Write on, Knights!



Our next element is BLACK.
Open submissions will run through . To submit visit this link or scan the QR code!

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Original Flash Fiction 750 words or less
- The poignant and meaningful use of our next element: BLACK
- You are free to explore any theme you wish!

WHAT WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR:

- Fanfiction
- Excessive or over-reliance on profanity
- Gory, sexual, and/or graphic imagery
- Writing that promotes racism, sexism, and/or other forms of discrimination.



JUST WRITE!

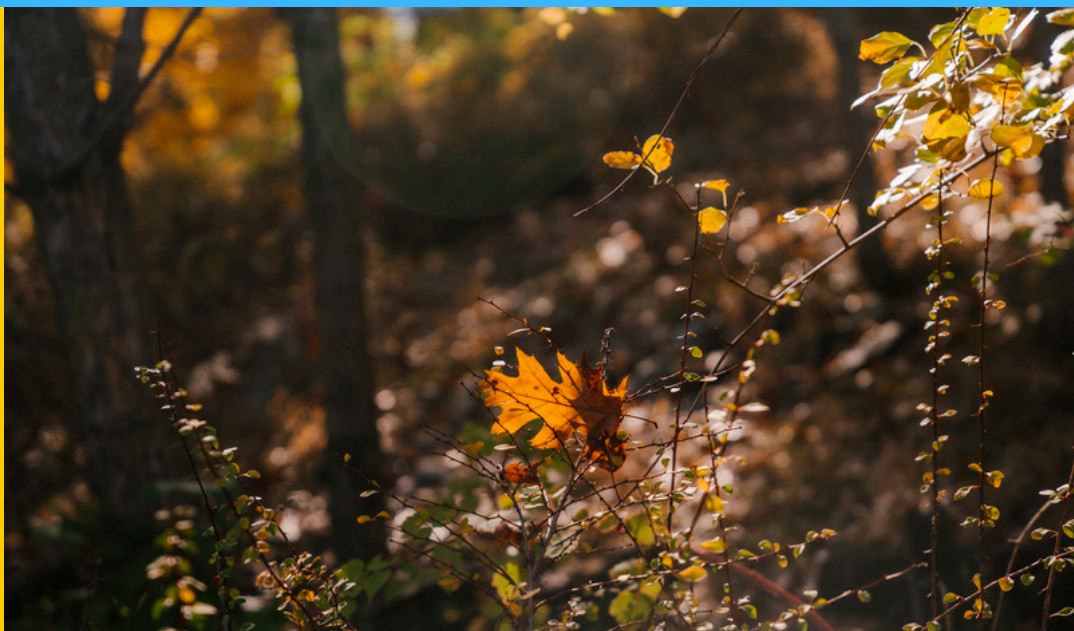


MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

Visit
UWC.CAH.UCF.EDU

SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT WITH
ONE OF OUR
AWESOME PEER
TUTORS!

Check out the UWC
Instagram: @ucfuwc



RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

Publication Opportunities:

Convergence Rhetoric: A peer-reviewed online journal for upper-division undergraduate writing in the Humanities!

- <https://convergence-rhetoric.net/>

Cypress Dome: Publishes an annual literary magazine of student work and hosts a variety of events.

- Open submissions are November 1st-December 31st.
- cypressdome.org

Stylus: A journal for the exemplary writing and research produced by students in ENC 1101 and 1102.

- Check with your ENC 1101 or 1102 professor.
- writingandrhetoric.cah.ucf.edu/stylus/

IMPRINT: A UCF student magazine supported by the Department of Writing and Rhetoric.

- writingandrhetoric.cah.ucf.edu/imprint

The Pegasus Review: A UCF literary magazine published twice yearly.

- Open submissions all year!
- floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/



Future Events:

UWC:

- Check out [@ucfuwc](https://www.instagram.com/ucfuwc) on Instagram for more updates about upcoming events, or visit our website for more details
<https://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/events/>

