



# The Writing Center

## Workshop Titles & Descriptions



Join us online for a free, interactive, 60-minute workshop (writing and grammar topics available). All workshops are available via Zoom to current students and taught by Writing Center instructors. Students can register for workshops at: <https://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/workshops.html>. If you have any questions, please call us at (909) 274-5325. Below is a description of the content of each workshop.

- **Analyzing Literature and Film** — You’ve read the book and watched the movie. Now what? Come learn literary analysis techniques to help you understand texts, breakdown ideas, and write stronger essays.
- **APA Made Easy**— Have you been asked to use APA and don’t know where to start? Come learn general APA formatting and the purpose and structure of your “references list.” You will leave with a template to use for all your future papers!
- **Annotating and Note-taking** — Reading and notetaking in college are challenging activities, but there are strategies you can learn to read and take notes more effectively, setting yourself up for greater course success. Join us!
- **Basic Paragraph Writing**— Let’s review the foundation of every writing assignment you will have – the paragraph. We will help you identify the parts of a paragraph and discuss strategies that will help you draft topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences.
- **Building Your Thesis Statement**—Learn how to develop tools for building strong thesis statements. The workshop explores three different types/models of thesis statements to get your essays focused and your audience engaged.
- **Citations Made Easy with NoodleTools**— It’s free! It’s better than Easybib! We will help you set up your FREE NoodleTools account and explore some key features of the software (in-text citation tool, printing and exporting sources, outlining, etc).
- **Conquering Commas**— Let’s eat Grandma; or let’s eat, Grandma? Who needs Commas? Our grandmas clearly do... and so do you! Come review seven comma rules that will help you improve your writing assignments and save grandmas everywhere.
- **Developing Analytical Paragraphs**—Hungry to learn a simple model for analysis? Learn how to write analytical paragraphs based on strategies from the MEAL Plan (Main Idea, Evidence, Analysis, and Link). We will help you understand, identify, and practice the mechanics of MEAL.
- **Essay Refresh**—Been a while since you had to write a formal essay? Join us for an overview of the fundamentals of essay structure, a discussion of the components of academic writing, and organizational tips on putting it all together.
- **Fixing Fragments, Run-ons, and Comma Splices**—Are little errors getting in the way of your big ideas? Discover simple strategies to identify and fix these common writing errors.
- **Finding and Evaluating Sources**— Have a research paper and are unsure where to begin? This workshop will cover both how to find sources and how to determine their quality and usefulness.
- **How to Student 101**— New to college? Ready to learn some tips and tricks? Learn to manage your time on essays, communicate with your professor, understand your assignments, and craft stand out discussions.
- **Incorporating Sources Effectively**— Have sources but aren’t sure how to use them in your essay? This workshop will help you understand how to work with your source material in an academic way.

- **MLA Made Easy**— New to using MLA? Wish someone would make it easier? We have! Join our MLA workshop and leave with an MLA essay template. We will also show you how to construct parenthetical (in-text) citations and understand the components of a Works Cited list. Finally, we will practice how to incorporate evidence into your discussions.
- **Prewriting and Outlining Strategies**—Does writer’s block get in the way of getting started on your assignments, or do you struggle with getting your ideas in order? Come discover prewriting strategies and activities that are meant to help you get started on your writing.
- **Proofreading Like a Pro**—Are you looking for strategies to polish and improve your writing? This workshop will help you understand and recognize the importance of carefully and critically re-reading your work. The workshop will also teach you some strategies to identify the most common errors and tricks that allow you to find and fix such errors.
- **Reading Like a Writer**—You’ve probably learned that good writers are good readers, but do you want to know how this works? Come practice strategies that will show you *how* writers achieve particular effects over their readers. You will be able to observe and recreate these same powerful moves in your own writing.
- **Revising for Success**—Have you been told to revise an essay and aren’t sure where to start? We will review strategies for honing your focus, organizing, developing, and taking your writing to the next level. You will also practice strategies that help you to rework key elements of writing, such as organization and development.
- **Research Essay Steps to Success**— Do you have your research and your ideas in place but are unsure how to put them all together in an essay? Come to this workshop where we will cover the research essay purpose, elements, and development.
- **Writing Clearer Sentences: Simple and Compound Sentences**—Writing is communicating, so we all want to write the clearest sentences we can. Learn to identify and create simple and compound sentences with clarity and confidence.
- **Writing Clearer Sentences: Complex and Compound-Complex Sentences**— As sentences grow in complexity, they should maintain clarity. In this workshop, we will practice identifying complex and compound-complex sentences, learn how to punctuate them, and practice different strategies to create even stronger and clearer sentences.
- **Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism**— Did you know that most incidents of academic dishonesty are unintended? In this workshop, you will review the concept of plagiarism, understand why it matters in an academic setting, and learn ways to avoid it.
- **Using Quotations and Paraphrases**—Do you have questions about when and how to quote or paraphrase? Come learn the differences between quotations and paraphrases and how to correctly integrate them into your papers.
- **Writing with Flow**—Do you want to know some moves that will help you create effective, fluid writing? We will discuss the differences between cohesion and coherence in academic writing, learn about cohesive devices in writing and how to recognize them, and build transitions and bridges from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph to create coherence.
- **Writing Successful Summaries**— Need to write an academic summary, review study notes, or prepare research for an assignment? We will help you review the main components of an academic summary, identify “essential” information in a summary, and discuss the importance of summaries.