

Duke University Writing Studio E-News

Volume 1, Issue 2, March 2007

The E-News is a monthly newsletter featuring writing-related questions and upcoming events at the Writing Studio. For more information about the Writing Studio, visit our website at <http://uwp.aas.duke.edu/wstudio/>. Reserve Face-to-Face or E-Tutor appointments with writing tutors in advance online. For writing workshops, you can either sign up in advance or drop in.

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■ **E-Tutor Update**

Duke Writing Studio has a new program called E-Tutor that offers tutoring help by appointment without requiring you to be there in person. The program was featured in a recent front-page story in the Duke Chronicle, entitled "Writing Studio Takes to Internet with E-Tutor." To view the complete story, go to <http://media.www.dukechronicle.com/media/storage/paper884/news/2007/02/15/News/Writing.Studio.Takes.To.Internet.With.ETutor-2722269.shtml>

How Does E-Tutor Work?

To use E-Tutor, students select and reserve an hour as usual. Rather than meeting for the appointment, students fill out an online submission form and attach a draft before the scheduled appointment time. During the scheduled hour, the tutor will consider the submission form, read the draft, and compose written feedback. At the end of the hour, the students will receive an email indicating that written comments are available and accessible in their Writing Studio account. This email also includes an attached audio clip, where tutors introduce themselves and offer a brief overview of the written comments.

Is E-Tutor Right for Me?

We encourage students to choose wisely whether or not to use the E-Tutor service. Please consider the following factors:

1. Think about which type of session might work best for you as a writer. Is it more helpful to discuss your ideas and be able to interact with a tutor, or do you work better with written feedback that allows you to consider and revisit the tutor's responses?
2. E-Tutor is especially advantageous for students who are unable to visit the Writing Studio on-campus, including students studying abroad. If you are on campus, please try a face-to-face appointment as a complement to the E-Tutor. This may help you determine which type of appointment works best for you and how each might contribute at different stages of the writing process.
3. Do you have a draft ready? While Face-to-Face appointments can be useful at any stage in the writing process (including pre-writing brainstorming and outlining), E-Tutor requires a written draft.
4. Please keep in mind that E-Tutor will be most beneficial for you when you take the time to fill out the submission form in a complete and thoughtful way. By providing your perception of the assignment, your progress so far, and your primary concerns, you will allow the tutor to offer more personalized, focused feedback.
5. Because our evening hours are limited and popular for Face-to-Face appointments, we ask you to schedule E-Tutor appointments for daytime hours only (10am – 4pm).

■ Valentine Workshop a Rousing Success

The Writing Studio's first annual Make-Your-Own Valentine Workshop was held on February 12, 2007, in the Writing Studio's 112 Perkins location, in honor of International Writing Centers Week. The Studio provided a wide variety of "raw materials" for crafting Valentines. Attendees were able to choose from red and pink construction paper hearts, several colors of ribbon, colored wooden hearts in a variety of sizes, heart-shaped paper doilies, stickers, hand-painted paper flowers, and red and gold glitter pens. An added bonus was Valentine candy, available to fuel creative energy on the spot, or to include as part of the Valentines. Workshop attendees also received romantic inspiration from a selection of love poetry—some of it serious, some of it playful—from literary and pop culture sources.

■ March Madness Comes to the Writing Studio

March madness is fast approaching....Show your spirit! As the Duke community prepares to root for our men's and women's basketball teams, we might need some J.J. Redick-style poetry for inspiration.

Your poem must be 12 lines long, with the first letter of the first line starting with a "G," the second line an "O" and so forth until the beginning letters of the 12 lines spell out "Go Blue Devils!"

The submission deadline is March 9, with multiple submissions accepted. Depending on the number and quality of entries, up to three poems will be published in next month's E-news and on the Writing Studio website. Write on!

■ Upcoming Workshops and Writing Group Schedule

MARCH WORKSHOPS

Editing and Proofreading for Correctness

Thurs. March 1, 3 pm, 112 Perkins - West

Sun. March 4, 7 pm, Lilly Training Room - East

Improving Your Writing Style: Clarity

Thurs. March 22, 3 pm, 112 Perkins - West

Sun. March 25, 7 pm, Lilly Training Room - East

Improving Your Writing Style: Conciseness, Cohesion and Coherence

Thurs. March 29, 3 pm, 112 Perkins - West

Sign up online in advance or feel free to drop in.

WRITING GROUPS

CREATIVE WRITING: TBA. Contact Facilitator: Rod Frey (r1f5@duke.edu)

SCI FI/FANTASY: Thursdays from 1 - 2:45 PM in Trinity Café. Facilitator: Rabia Gregory (rabiag@email.unc.edu). **On hiatus until after Spring Break.**

ESL READING GROUP: Thursdays at 4:30 PM in the Perk/Von der Heyden Pavilion. Facilitator: Jayoung Min (jm12@duke.edu)

DISSERTATION GROUP: TBA. Contact Facilitator: Richard Musselwhite (rmusselw@duke.edu)

■ Featured Handouts of the Month: Prewriting and Developing a Central Claim

You've gone on an exciting quest for knowledge and now it's time to write it up. How can you organize your paper so that readers will want to go along for the entire ride? Consider our handout on ROADMAPS as you erect "signposts" for your readers. <http://uwp.aas.duke.edu/wstudio/resources/documents/Roadmaps.rev.pdf>

Follow up with our handout on REVERSE OUTLINING to help make sure you're staying on organizational track and avoiding unanticipated detours. http://uwp.aas.duke.edu/wstudio/resources/handouts/WS%20Handouts/reverse_outline.pdf

You'll find additional assistance with Prewriting, Drafting, and Revising in the Academic Writing section of our website: <http://uwp.aas.duke.edu/wstudio/resources/writing.html>.

■ Quotation of the Month

"I write entirely to find out what is on my mind, what I am thinking, what I'm looking at what I'm seeing, and what it means."

– Joan Didion, "Why I Write," a Regents' Lecture at the U. of California at Berkeley, reprinted in The Writer on Her Work, ed. Janet Sternburg (New York: Norton, 1980), p. 20

Email wstudio@aes.duke.edu with any suggested quotations for the April newsletter.

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