



How to Use a Writing Tutor

Strategies for Getting the Most of the Writing Lab

1. Bring your assignment sheet and all the materials you're writing about. This makes the whole process easier. If you don't have your professor's requirements handy, you might end up having to re-do your work later. If you bring all of your materials, you and the tutor can go over them together and make sure you're covering everything.
2. Take control. Tell the tutors what you know about your own learning style and writing process. Tutors might ask what works best for you in a session, but if they don't, you should bring it up yourself. If you feel your tutor's methods aren't helping you, ask about them. You can always say you want to try something else.
3. Be involved and talkative. You're the one who has to write your paper, so tutors' hands are tied if you don't participate. They can't give you ideas, but they can help you draw out, clarify, and organize your own ideas. Sometimes talking can trigger your thoughts, so go ahead and say what comes to mind, even if you're worried it might be wrong.
4. Give yourself time. The night before a paper is due, your options are limited. The hour before it's due, you may not accomplish anything useful at all.
5. Don't try to do everything in one session. Writing is a long process with many steps. If you need a good deal of help, you should bring your paper to the lab more than once. When you're in the planning or drafting stage, don't worry about wording everything perfectly. You can always clean up your work later.
6. Try things on your own. If you do something that works in a tutoring session, think about how it worked, and try to do the same kind of thinking when you write your next paper.
7. Use different tutors. It's useful to have people look at your paper from many different perspectives. Often one tutor sees something another missed, or explains a concept in a new way that makes more sense.