



The Writing Center

Workshop 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. Workshops are held online and in person. Students can register for workshops at: <https://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/workshops.html>, under “workshops.” If you have any questions, please call us at (909) 274-5325. Below is a description of the content of each workshop.

Workshops (Online & In Person)

- Analyzing Literature and Film — Come learn literary analysis techniques to help you understand and breakdown literature and film and write stronger analytical essays.
- 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.
- Basic Paragraph Writing—This workshop is designed to help you identify the parts of a paragraph, practice writing the different parts of the paragraph, and discuss strategies that will help you draft topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences.
- The Building Blocks to a Thesis Statement—This workshop helps you develop tools for building strong thesis statements. The workshop will describe the parts of a thesis statement and explore three different types/models of thesis statements.
- Citations Made Easy with NoodleTools— NoodleTools is a software that helps you cite and organize your sources. This workshop is designed to help you set up your NoodleTools account and explore some key features of the software (in-text citation tool, printing and exporting sources, outlining, etc).
- Conquering Commas—This workshop reviews seven comma rules and offers you an opportunity to practice them in an interactive manner.
- Developing Analytical Paragraphs—In this workshop, you will learn how to write analytical paragraphs based on strategies from the MEAL Plan (Main Idea, Evidence, Analysis, and Link). This workshop will help you understand, identify, and practice the mechanics of MEAL.
- Essay Refresh—Join us for an overview of the fundamentals of essay structure, a discussion of the rhetorical moves of the components of academic writing, and organizational tips on putting it all together.
- Fixing Fragments, Run-ons, and Comma Splices—Discover simple strategies to identify and fix these common writing errors. You will also have a great opportunity to practice editing such errors from your writing.
- 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 and ready to learn some tips and tricks for managing your time on essays, communicating with your professor, understanding your assignments, and crafting stand out discussions? Join us for this workshop that will give you the tools you need to be a successful college writer.
- Incorporating Sources Effectively— So you 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.
- Prewriting and Outlining Strategies—In this workshop, you will learn and practice prewriting strategies that are meant to help you get started on your writing. Moreover, this workshop will help you decipher which prewriting/outlining strategies are appropriate for individual writing projects, incorporate critical thinking into the prewriting and outlining process, and recognize research as a component of writing rather than separate from the writing process.



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- **Proofreading Strategies**—Are you looking for strategies to polish and improve your writing? This workshop will help you understand the difference between proofreading and revision 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**—In this workshop, you will learn and practice ways of reading that help you determine *how* writers achieve a particular effect so that you can recreate the same powerful moves in your own writing.
- **Revision Strategies**—This workshop will review strategies for honing your focus, organization, and development and take your writing to the next level. You will 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.
- **Subject Verb Agreement** – Join us and learn to identify and fix the most common mistakes with subject verb agreement.
- **Writing Clearer Sentences: Simple and Compound Sentences**—In this workshop, you will practice identifying simple and compound sentences; you will also learn different strategies to create your own sentences.
- **Writing Clearer Sentences: Complex and Compound-Complex Sentences**— In this workshop, you will practice identifying complex and compound-complex sentences; learn how to punctuate them, and practice different strategies to create your own sentences.
- **Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism**— In this workshop, you will review the concept of plagiarism, understand why it is important topic in an academic setting, and learn ways to avoid it.
- **Using Quotation and Paraphrases**—In this workshop, you will learn about the differences between quotations and paraphrases and how to correctly integrate them into your papers while avoiding plagiarism. Also, you will have a chance to learn and practice how to create signal phrases when integrating quotations and paraphrases into your writing.
- **Working in APA Style and Format**— In this workshop, you will learn the general APA formatting for your assignments and the purpose and structure of your references list. You will also be able to construct parenthetical (in-text) citations and incorporate evidence into your discussion.
- **Working in MLA Style and Format**— In this workshop, you will create an MLA format template that you can use for future MLA-style projects! You will also learn how to construct parenthetical (in-text) citations and understand the understand components of the Works Cited list. Finally, you will practice how to incorporate evidence into your discussion.
- **Writing with Flow**—Come discover stylistic 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 cohesion and flow.
- **Writing Successful Summaries**— This workshop will help you review the main components of an academic summary, identify “essential” information in a summary, discuss the importance of summaries and when they should be used, and learn how to outline a summary.