PHILOSOPHY WRITING CENTER

APPOINTMENTS

View and book available appointments through our online scheduling system.

LOCATION

Savery Hall, Room 362
Third floor (across from the elevators)

Contact us at philwrit@uw.edu.

“Our mission is to help students at all levels of writing build skills to become more confident and effective writers in any context that requires clear, concise, and direct writing. We are collaborative and aim to have a long-term impact.”

WHAT WE DO

The Philosophy Writing Center is a unique, FREE resource for students wanting to improve their philosophical writing. Our aim is to help students build skills needed to become confident and effective writers.

We offer one-on-one tutoring sessions. Students can bring in any kind of writing—reflection papers, short or long essays, summaries, commentaries, formal arguments, graduate school application materials, etc.—for any class or project. Or, students can schedule a tutoring-session to work on specific writing skills independent of any particular assignment.

We work with students at all writing levels, from beginning to advanced, and are happy to help with any stage or skill of writing, from brainstorming to final revisions. We are especially committed to supporting students from underrepresented social backgrounds.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SESSION

Consultation sessions are 40 minutes and take place in Savery 362.

• Come early in the semester and come often. Students can get much more out of the writing center by building an ongoing relationship with tutors.
• Have at least some sense of what part of the writing process you want to focus on—i.e. brainstorming, organization, revising, etc.
• We can best help you with your writing when you have a good understanding of the material that you are writing about. If you are not feeling confident with the content of the course, stopping by your instructor’s or TA’s office hours before you come to your session can be helpful.
• Plan time for revision. We are happy to work with you at any time, but having time to reflect, revise, and ask follow up questions can be particular helpful as you work on your writing.

WHO ARE WE?

SUPERVISOR
Michael Ball-Blakely is a fourth year Ph.D. student in the philosophy department. He is currently working on his prospectus, and hopes to get started on the dissertation soon! His research interests are primarily in social and political philosophy, and in particular the ability of liberal political philosophy to engage with, and provide a satisfactory analysis of, transnational capitalism. More specifically, his research involves an analysis of state sovereignty in a transnational economy, the relationship between capital mobility and the domination of global labor, and the virtues of investigating migration rights as an element of global economic justice.

Outside of research, teaching, and supervising the Philosophy Writing Center, Michael primarily spends his time watching basketball, *trying* to play basketball, visiting local breweries, and reading fantasy.

**TUTORS**

Our tutors are undergraduate philosophy majors with special training in tutoring. They have a great diversity and depth of writing experience and are excited to work with you!

**Jackson Borek** (Autumn 2019 & Spring 2020 only). Jackson is a senior majoring in philosophy and minoring in informatics. He is fascinated by all philosophy, but is particularly interested in ontology, metaethics, and ancient eastern philosophy. He is also excited about the developing field of data ethics.

In his free time, Jackson enjoys spending time with his friends and housemates, and occasionally forcing them into a philosophical conversation. He tries to meditate regularly, and plays bass guitar often in his band Bone Spurs.

**Melissa Diamond** (Autumn 2019 only). Melissa is a senior majoring in philosophy and computer science. In her philosophy classes, she has enjoyed studying feminist philosophy, ethics, and epistemology, and hopes to keep working with ideas where these subfields intersect. She loves the process of philosophical writing, from beginning to form an argument to editing the final sentences.

Outside of school, Melissa has spent her summers mainly working in progressive politics, but took time last summer to travel around Europe with her sister. When she's not busy, she likes to talk about philosophy with friends, cook and bake, and go outside.

**William Howard-Snyder** is a sophomore double majoring in computer science and philosophy with a minor in mathematics. Within the field of philosophy William studies primarily ethics and logic - especially as it applies to computer science!
Outside of school, William enjoys reading, going on hikes in the Pacific Northwest, and playing Super Smash Bros with his friends.

Jesse Loi is a senior majoring in philosophy and mathematics. He's done work both on Kant's theoretical philosophy and his aesthetics. In addition, he has interests in Kant's practical philosophy and philosophy of mathematics, particularly the development of geometry in the 19th century.

Outside of class, Jesse enjoys spending time in the HUB's Commuter and Transfer Center. He also likes running in his free time and playing the occasional trading card game.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR WRITING PHILOSOPHY PAPERS

- How to Write Philosophy Papers
- A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper
- Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper
- Sample Philosophy Paper
- Guidelines for Paper Structure
- Guidelines for Introductions
- Guidelines for Conclusions
- Guidelines for Charitability
- Guidelines for Objections
- Guidelines for Citing and Plagiarism
- Guidelines for Paper Exegesis

WRITING TIPS AND GUIDES FROM UW PHILOSOPHY INSTRUCTORS

- Bill Talbott
- Colin Marshall

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR PHILOSOPHY WRITING CENTER TEAM AS A TUTOR?

Writing Center tutors are typically hired late in Spring quarter for the following academic year. The undergraduate adviser will send an announcement out to the undergraduate email list when positions become available. Tutors usually commit to the full academic year and are expected to work between 4-8 hours per week. The hourly rate as of July 1, 2019 is $16.32/hour.