PHILOSOPHY WRITING CENTER

APPOINTMENTS

See 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. Our tutors have additional training in working with English Language Learners (ELL students), and we are especially committed to supporting students from underrepresented social backgrounds. We were certified as a “Safe Zone” in Winter Quarter 2014.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SESSION

Consultation sessions are 40 minutes and take place in Savery 362. Appointments can be made here.

- 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?

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!
Melissa Diamond is a junior majoring in Philosophy and Computer Science. In her philosophy classes, she has enjoyed studying both ethics and metaphysics, but plans to continue exploring many branches within the field. She loves the process of philosophical writing, from beginning to form an argument to editing the final sentences.

Melissa is a co-founder of a feminist film and book club on campus. She has spent the last two summers working for Planned Parenthood, first in her home state of Oregon and then in DC. When she's not busy, she likes to talk about politics with friends, watch reality television, and take photos of her cat.

Adelle Kanan is a senior pre-med student majoring in Philosophy and Biology. Her interests within philosophy highlight ancient ethics and logic, with a special focus on Plato's works.

Adelle is originally from Joplin, Missouri and currently loving her time as a student in Seattle. When she isn't studying, she works as a student assistant in both a cancer research lab and a genetics lab. Outside of school and work, Adelle likes going to shows, cooking (especially out of her Tom Douglas cookbooks), and throwing pajama parties with her roommates. Studying philosophy at UW has helped Adelle come to terms with many perennial existential questions, as well as refine her writing skills. She hopes to pass on her love of philosophical writing to other students.

Hannah Martens is a junior pre-law student majoring in Law, Societies and Justice (LSJ) and Philosophy, and minoring in Bioethics, Ethics, and Disability Studies. Within Philosophy she focuses widely on the study of ethics, metaethics, philosophy of law, and social philosophy. Her specific areas of work center on relational approaches to bioethics and health justice. She is also part of the Ethics Thrust at the Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering (CSNE) and does philosophy research within this group. She is an undergraduate representative on the Student Leadership Counsel for the CSNE and the ethics chair for the RSO Synaptech: Integrating Neuroscience, Engineering, and Ethics.

Hannah spends most of her free time reading—both in the philosophic genre and widely outside of it—rock climbing, cooking, and power napping. Philosophy has been an invaluable field of study that has influenced her thinking both in academics and more broadly in life and has given her skills that apply to nearly every project she embarks upon. She is also working on a pet project to prove coffee as the metaphysical foundation for life—jk she just really really loves coffee.
Jonathan Pry is a junior majoring in philosophy and history and minoring in classics and ancient history. Within the field of philosophy, Jonathan enjoys epistemology and ethics with a special interest in Kant - at least the parts he can understand.

Philosophy has proved invaluable to him by preparing him for law school and expanding his mindset and perspective. In his free time Jonathan tutors at Franklin High School, reads (check out his Goodreads), plays chess in person and online, and pretends to be funny.

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 commitment to the full academic year and are expected to work between 4-8 hours per week. The hourly rate as of January 1, 2019 is $16.00/hour.