

THE TEACHING EXCHANGE

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Writing in Your Curriculum

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Writing_Center/

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As part of our ongoing support for Brown's highly active writing community, the Brown University Writing Center launched a multi-purpose Web site for teachers and writers this past September. The site, which was researched and designed by Writing Center staff member and history Ph.D. candidate Alyssa Lodewick, was initially funded by the Graduate School.

Our site is a work-in-progress, but it has five principal objectives: to provide information about our Writing Center, provide a locus for the myriad of writing-related programs and projects happening at Brown, connect Brown to the national writing scene, provide up-to-date information on writing for writers at Brown and elsewhere, and offer instructional tools on rhetoric and composition for the Writing Center staff and for teachers of writing across Brown's curriculum.

Writing at Brown

The Writing Center's homepage serves a variety of purposes. If you are a professor or a teaching assistant wanting to know what type of help a student could receive at the Writing Center, our mission statement and our brief staff biographies will give you a description of the range of services we offer. (One thing you would find is that the Center is staffed primarily by graduate students who come from a variety of academic disciplines - English, history, philosophy, science, classics, creative writing, and religious studies.) If you are a student, a professor or an outside researcher wanting to know what kinds of forums there are for writing at Brown, you could click on our Brown Resources Page. This will lead you

to our developing list of curricular and co-curricular writing-related activities at Brown, many nationally recognized for their excellence and innovation.

Since Brown has no formally mandated program of writing instruction, this list functions as a clearinghouse for the many rich, diverse ways that writing is constantly encouraged and produced at Brown, in keeping with Brown's philosophy of liberal, independent learning.

Sample highlights include links to the following

[The Brown Daily Herald](#)

[The Center for Language Studies](#)

[CIS](#) (see especially the information for WEB publishing)

[The Creative Writing Department](#)

Cyberspace, Hypertext, and Critical Theory projects

The English Department

[Impossible Object](#): An On-line Literary Magazine at Brown University

[The Scholarly Technology Group](#) (see especially the oral history projects)

[The Swearer Center for Public Service](#) (see especially service-based literacy projects)

[The Women's Writers Project](#)

[The Writing Fellows Program](#)

Nationwide On-line Resources on Writing

One of the main benefits of our site is the connections it provides to the community of writers beyond Brown. After we created our Web pages, we joined the National Writing Center Association's Web site, where our Center is listed along with various Centers and Writing Programs nationwide.

Besides connecting our Center to other Writing Centers nationally, our site is also a gateway to professional organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of English, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, and the Alliance for Computers and Writing. These sites in turn have links to cutting-edge on-line discussions by experts in the fields of rhetoric and composition.

Because searching the Web can be time-consuming, our Web pages are designed to help teachers and writers narrow their searches. On one of our many Resources for Teachers

pages, we have included a list of specific writing sites that we recommend. Four are especially noteworthy:

[Purdue's On Line Writing Lab](#) - contains an impressive, comprehensive list of electronic "handouts" on specific writing issues, including handouts on invention, clarity, coherence, editing/proofreading, research/citations, writing for the job search, English as a Foreign language, grammar, mechanics, and style.

[Ohio State University Center for the Study of Teaching and Writing](#) - contains annotated links to writing resources categorized by topics and disciplines as well as lengthy, but very useful basic information about the teaching of writing. Sample topics covered are audience awareness, creating workable assignments, and grading papers and exams.

[The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Writing Center](#) - has some especially good material on abstracts, laboratory reports, cover letters, application essays, and writing theses for analytical essays.

The World Lecture Hall (based at the University of Texas-Austin) - has a collection of syllabi and teaching materials on English, Writing, and Rhetoric, from various universities worldwide.

In addition to sites such as the above maintained by other Writing Programs and Writing Centers, we have pages linking us to extensive resources on science-writing, journalism, creative writing, reference and style manuals, the teaching of English as a Foreign Language, and on-line writing-related publications.

Writing in Your Courses

Our Web site should be a valuable resource for anyone interested in incorporating a writing component into a course. According to Dr. Elizabeth Taylor, Director of Undergraduate Composition Studies in the English Department, "Professors, graduate students, and undergraduates are already using the Writing Center Web site as a teaching tool. Professors may ask their students to find 'The Elements of an Essay'," or Luther Spoehr's handout on how to avoid common writers errors in any kind of writing. TAs have built a section discussion or workshop around the posted protocols of a course. Undergraduates have found answers to their midnight question, 'what do I do now?' Departments have been asked to add their own handouts on writing within their discipline. We already have archaeology and music. As more protocols are added, students of every discipline should find the help they need to write well within a course."

Developing more of the Brown-generated electronic "handouts" that Taylor mentions is one of the Writing Center's major long-term goals. Already underway is a piece on writing the personal essay, by Center Webmaster Alyssa Lodewick.

The Center extends its invitation to faculty and teaching assistants to contribute their own discipline-specific materials to our site. We would also welcome the names of programs and publications that should be added to our Writing at Brown list. Information and materials can be sent to Catherine.Imbriglio@Brown.edu.