

Introduction to Writing Instruction
Centre for Aboriginal Student Services (CASS)
Fall 2020 / Winter 2021

Writing Instructor

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In this presentation:

- Schedule
- Guidelines for sending documents
- Structure of writing instruction (asynchronous vs synchronous; CASS; Writing Centre)
- Benefits of writing instruction
- What to expect from writing instruction
- Student resources

Writing Instruction Schedule

All appointments held *virtually* **

- 1) Asynchronous appointments: **Tuesdays**, 12:30-3:30 pm or 12:30-4:30 pm
- 2) Asynchronous *or* synchronous appointments:
Wednesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm or 5:00-8:00 pm
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 pm
- 3) A/synchronous appointments: **Fridays**, 1:00-4:00 pm; 1:00-5:00 pm (**Writing Centre**)

For Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday appointments contact: blondeau@yorku.ca

For Friday appointments, enrol with Writing Centre & book appointments online:
<https://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/enrol/>

**Please see CASS Writing Instructor schedule for availability, as the hours change throughout the semester

Guidelines for sending documents for review

- 1) Email a copy of your draft paper to me **by 4:30 pm on Tuesday** (blondeau@yorku.ca), or, if you have booked an asynchronous appointment for Wednesday or Thursday, by the end of that appointment. For example, if you have an asynchronous appointment booked for Wednesday, 5:00-5:30 pm, send your draft **by 5:30 pm** on Wednesday.
- 2) I will conduct an online review, and return the document to you within 24 hours (e.g. **by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, or by 5:30 pm on Thursday**).
- 3) Please include brief instructions:
 - 1) 2-3 sentences explaining the assignment
 - 2) Identify up to 3 issues you want me to review (for example, strength of argument; grammar; introduction; use of quotations; citation method).
- 4) Format: Please use 2.0 line spacing. Include your name **on the paper**.
- 5) Send as an email attachment (doc or doc.x; *not* google docs).
- 5) After I return your paper, if you want further information, you can email me to set up a virtual (Zoom) appointment for Wednesday or Thursday evening. Please check schedule for my availability.

Benefits of Writing Instruction

- You learn to approach your assignments with more confidence.
- You learn the steps involved in writing:
 - Writing as a process (skills development; time management);
 - Writing as a product (developing the end result; fulfilling your assignments).
- You learn to edit your own work:
 - Ask yourself questions about your writing as you review your paper(s).
- You understand how, and why, “writing is re-writing.”
- You understand that revising assignments is part of this process.
- You become more confident in your abilities as you strengthen your writing skills.

Writing Assistance

In Individual Instruction I will:

- Discuss your work at any stage of the writing process:
 - discuss weekly responses; discuss assignments; brainstorm for ideas; comment on drafts; comment on finished and/or graded work;
- Provide comments on emailed draft assignments;
- Provide follow-up discussion in *individual* face-to-face appointment (30 to 60 minutes over Zoom)
- Highlight structural issues (e.g. run-on sentences, comma splices, verb/tense agreement, lack of clarity, difficulties with argument)

Please note: I provide **confidential** and **non-judgemental** writing instruction. Anything discussed in our appointment(s) will remain *between us*.

More specifically ...

- I identify areas where your writing could be strengthened, and we discuss how you can manage this. For example, if you have many run-on sentences, I will highlight several, but probably not all, instances of these in your paper. I might provide one or two examples of the correct structure so that you can identify and correct other mistakes of the same type.
- I will also identify areas where your argument / analysis could be strengthened; this is where we have discussions about *your ideas*, and how you are presenting them. This can be very satisfying!!
- This is how you learn to strengthen your own writing. This is part of the *process*, and how you learn to develop a stronger final *product*. You carry this skill forward to all of your writing.

Student resources:

Interactive (modules providing information about all stages of writing):

SPARK: <http://www.library.yorku.ca/spark/>

OWL at Purdue: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> (click on 'site map')

Services provided by York University:

York University Libraries: <http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/>

Learning Skills Services: <https://www.yorku.ca/scld/learning-skills/>

Learning Commons: <http://learningcommons.yorku.ca/>

York University Writing Centre, S311 Ross: <http://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/>

✓ Sign-up for a workshop:
<https://writingcentre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/services/writing-workshops/>

✓ Register / sign-up for one-to-one appointments:
<https://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/enrol/>

And, of course: Your CASS Writing Instructor: blondeau@yorku.ca

Your CASS Learning Skills Peer: wesley10@my.yorku.ca