
Writing Support in the Library

What to Expect in a Drop-in Session with the Writing Specialist

During your session with the Writing Specialist, you can do any or all of the following things:

- Bring your preliminary ideas and notes for the assignment, so you can talk them through with the specialist. Talking them through can help you clarify and focus your ideas.
- Bring a draft of your paper—no matter how rough it is. The specialist can comment on which sections are clearly explained and which might need more explanation, clarity and support.
- Bring in your paper in its final stages. Ask the specialist to comment on **particular parts**—e.g., a paragraph, sentence structure, word choices—that you're unsure about. The specialist will not comment on the whole paper.
- Bring your nearly finished paper. The specialist can give you some techniques for self-editing and proofreading. **Please note that the specialist will not proofread the paper for you.**

You can get advice and guidance in several ways. The specialist will help you:

- Brainstorm a topic, narrow it, and focus on it.
- Integrate your quotations and work through your paraphrasing and summarizing to help avoid inadvertent plagiarism.
- Refer you to the Information Desk in the Library for more in-depth support regarding referencing.
- Offer comments or suggestions as you draft the paper, organize it, develop your ideas, and refine your sentences.

The Writing Specialist will not do the work for you but will offer you guidance so you can do the work more effectively. This encourages independent learning and helps you gain confidence in your own abilities and writing style.

Be aware that if the writing specialist does any more than what is described above, you may be accused of academic dishonesty. If the assignment you hand in contains the specialist's work rather than your own, this is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism can result in severe consequences for your educational opportunities.