

Hints for Making the Most of Your Writing Center Visit

You are welcome to visit the SIUC Writing Centers at any stage in your work on a writing project. The following are steps you can take to make your visit as profitable as possible:

- 1.** Review the assignment, pausing to highlight key words in the instructions and to number each step required. Bring a copy of the assignment sheet, if you have one, to your appointment.
- 2.** If you have written a draft of your essay, ask yourself if it fulfills each step in the assignment.
- 3.** Try to set priorities for the session. What sort of help would be most beneficial, given your stage in the writing process: brainstorming ideas, sharpening the focus, organizing and developing points, or identifying and correcting sentence-level errors? Your tutor will give you feedback on aspects of your draft that work well and aspects that may need revision and will provide you with strategies for making progress with your assignment. But your input on priorities allows more time for real progress to be made.
- 4.** Note portions of your essay that you feel may need work. Jot down any questions you may have.
- 5.** Write down or underline the main point of the essay and the main point of each paragraph in the essay. Consider whether the ideas as ordered relate clearly to the others and to the overall point or focus of the essay.
- 6.** Consider any responses you have received on your project from peers. Questions asked by other readers can give you helpful perspectives on further developing or revising your draft.
- 7.** Most importantly, come to the Writing Center prepared to work hard on your writing project.