Project Proposal

Writing Center

# Overview

## The Objective

* Need #1: Improve student writing and student success
* Need #2: Train future English majors and/or English Club members on skills including, but not limited to editing, relationship building, teaching, and other skills necessary for future careers in English, such as teaching or editing
* Need #3: Provide an opportunity for students to build community at YC

## The Solution

* Recommendation #1: Create a Writing Center where students can receive targeted assistance with their writing assignments in all classes.
* Recommendation #2: Create Work Study positions for future English majors and/or English Club members who will work in the Writing Center.
* Recommendation #3: Writing Center tutors will work directly with English faculty to learn how to best assist other students, creating a multi-faceted community.

# Our Proposal

In order to better meet the needs of students at Yavapai College, we propose the creation of a Writing Center where students can receive targeted assistance with their writing assignments in all classes. The Writing Center would be open 20 hours per week, Monday through Thursday, with hours in the morning and in the afternoon to accommodate student schedules. The Writing Center would differ from the tutoring offered in the Learning Center because the tutors will be trained by and work under the direct supervision of English faculty.

The Writing Center would be staffed by future English majors and/or English Club members who will be trained and supervised by English faculty members. Students will be selected for these positions based upon their qualifications. Future English majors and English Club members will receive priority consideration for these positions. Students will receive training in editing, teaching skills, communication skills, finding and utilizing appropriate resources, and building writer confidence that will help them build their resumes and experience for future careers in the field of English, including, but not limited to, teaching, writing, and editing.

Creating a direct relationship between faculty and students helps to strengthen the sense of community on campus at YC. In addition, giving students an opportunity to learn from and help each other helps to forge new connections among our students, as well.

## Rationale

* There is a clear need for additional writing help for our students at YC, particularly those placing into developmental writing classes.
* Students desiring to continue on to complete degrees in English need experience to build their resumes.
* The Writing Center provides another opportunity for English majors and English Club members to participate in and serve the YC community.
* Most other colleges/universities have a dedicated writing center with trained tutors, who generally come from their English programs.

## Execution Strategy

Room 3-202 is currently being re-purposed to serve, in part, as a Writing Center, as well as a student lounge for our Arts and Humanities majors. The Writing Center will be staffed from 9-11:30 am and 3-5:30 pm M-Th for 14 weeks each semester. Students will be able to drop in for writing assistance or sign up online.

Work Study job postings will be posted prior to the start of the Fall 2019 semester, and tutors will be hired prior to the Fall semester. Dr. Karen Palmer and Dr. Sandi Van Lieu will provide training for tutors prior to the beginning of the semester, as well as provide supervision throughout the semester.

## Resources

* Room 3-202 is already in preparation
* Salary for Work Study students: $11/hour x 20 hours/week x 14 weeks x 2 semesters = $6160 per year
* Training provided by Sandi Van Lieu and Karen Palmer
* MLA and APA handbooks and other resources for student tutors

# Expected Results

We expect that providing additional writing support to our students, particularly our developmental writing students, will help to increase student success in their classes, which, in turn, will result in increased student success overall. Providing our future English majors with opportunities to build their resumes and receive targeted training in writing, teaching, and communication skills will increase their success as they move on from YC in their academic and professional careers. Creating a dedicated program that necessarily brings faculty and students together and gives students an opportunity to work together will strengthen our YC community overall.

# Conclusion

If you have questions on this proposal, feel free to contact Karen Palmer or Sandi Van Lieu.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Karen Palmer & Dr. Sandi Van Lieu

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