

AAC Review

February 2010

Academic Achievement Center

Tutoring is active learning...

AAC Writing Center Helps Lawrence Tech Students Develop Writing Skills

The AAC Writing Center helps Lawrence Tech students become better writers. Writers at any stage in the writing process can work one-on-one with peer and faculty tutors in a welcoming environment.

Whether brainstorming, drafting, revising, or editing, students will receive support and input that will help them become more confident and effective writers.

Taking advantage of the writing center is one of the best things students can do to improve their writing. It's convenient, easy, and free!

AAC writing tutors are Lawrence Tech undergraduate and graduate students who have been recommended based on their own writing, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills.

Faculty and staff can help the AAC tutors do their jobs by reminding students of a few tips for making the most out of writing tutoring:

Plan ahead. Waiting until the day a paper is due puts pressure on both student and tutor to do a "quick fix," often at the expense of higher-order writing concerns. Moreover, because the AAC operates on a walk-in basis, waiting until the last minute will often result in a student not getting in at all!

Be prepared. Students should be prepared to discuss questions and concerns they have about their papers. If the paper has been reviewed by the professor or a peer, students should bring those comments. Also, students should bring a copy of the assignment and any related class notes.

Understand the Tutor's Role. AAC tutors will ask questions about a paper in order to help the student clarify ideas and identify strengths and weaknesses in their writing. The tutor will make suggestions but will not impose ideas or demand that specific changes be made. Tutors

are coaches and collaborators, not teachers. Tutors do not evaluate students in any way and can not replace the instructor for content knowledge.

Be open. Our motto for the AAC writing center is "every writer needs a reader." All writers, even professionals, benefit from feedback. Learning to write is a process, and it involves practice, experimentation, and risk-taking on the part of the student. Though this is not always easy, ultimately it will result in more accomplished, confident writing.



Spring Academic Skills Workshops

AAC workshops are offered free each semester and aim to help students develop the skills necessary to academic success. Workshops are led by Lawrence Tech instructors, staff, and AAC tutors. Students are encouraged to attend any and all workshops that fit their needs. Registration is not required - just drop in at the AAC!

All workshops are held from 12:30—1:30 p.m. in the AAC
Upcoming workshops include:

- Tues. Feb. 16: Midway Mindset: Developing an Academic Attitude
- Tues. Feb. 23: Tackling Tests: Strategies for Taking Exams
- Tues. March 2: Fret and Forget: Managing Test Anxiety
- Tues. March 16: Edit and Review: How to Edit Your Own Papers
- Tues. March 23: Write Right: Effective Essay Writing

Have a workshop suggestion or question? Contact us! aac@ltu.edu

Welcome New AAC Tutors and Staff



Steve Bate is from Mt. Pleasant, MI, and has worked at the AAC as a front desk assistant since fall 2009. Steve is a member of the Army National Guard, and was deployed to Iraq from November 2006 through February 2008, after which he enrolled as a Mechanical Engineering major at Lawrence Tech. As a condition of his employment with the National Guard, Steve will be redeployed for another year in September 2010. When he returns, he will resume his coursework and plan his wedding to AAC tutor Haley Smith. In his spare time, Steve enjoys tinkering on cars and machines of all kinds, outdoor activities like hiking and camping, and spending time with friends over beer and pizza.



Keith Marks is from Elma, New York, and is an Architecture and Interior Design dual major who will graduate in the spring of 2012. Keith has received honors in his IDS1 and IDS2 studios, as well as an honorable mention in the freshman Cardboard Chair Competition. He plans on studying for a semester in Florence, Italy this fall where he intends to travel around Europe during his free time. He enjoys snowboarding, soccer, playing his guitar, and long walks on the beach. After graduation, Keith plans to attend graduate school in Architecture and eventually open his own firm.



Michael Skupny is a sophomore from Warren, MI majoring in Computer Science with a Game Development concentration. He joined the AAC in Spring 2010 as a tutor for writing, math, and computer science. He is enrolled in the Honors Program, and currently participates in LTU's math club, Blue Devil Development for game design/development, and LTU Campus Crusade. Outside of school, Mike likes to browse blogs and forums about technology, programming, and gaming, as well as play video games, gain additional experience in programming and game development, and try to compose music.



Emily Boggs is a commuter student from Lake Orion, MI where she lives with her mom, dad, younger sister and cat. She joined the AAC tutoring staff in January 2010 and can assist students with Economics, Biology, Writing, and Calculus. Emily is currently a freshman in the Biomedical Engineering program and aspires one day to grow organs in jars.



Joseph Wierenga joined the AAC tutoring staff as an English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor in January 2010. Joseph is a dual civil engineering and architecture major. JJ recently traveled to China with some of his international student friends from Lawrence Tech, and is keenly interested in learning about other cultures. JJ is an accomplished balloon artist and travels to area events and fairs to fashion his balloon animals.



Audrey Kay Werthan is a grad student in Architecture who tutors software programs, particularly Revit. Audrey earned a BS in Environmental Science and an MS in Building and Environmental technology, both at the University of Michigan. She has worked in marketing and web design in addition to several years as an academic researcher in her field. Audrey can also tutor writing and some math.

GRE Study Group Fridays 12:00—2:00 in the AAC

Join Lawrence Tech students and staff who are preparing for the GRE. We have study guides and practice tests available, plus snacks and a supportive community. We'll also be bringing in a test prep specialist from Kaplan later in the semester—stay tuned for more info!



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