

Methods for encouraging students to visit the Writing Center

1. I can **visit classes** for any amount of time you'd like, from 5 minutes to the whole class period, and can tell students **about the Writing Center** and our services and can **talk to them about writing**. The best time for me to visit (the time that seems to result in the most students using the service afterward) is the day you discuss the writing assignment with the class. That way they associate my face and WC services with the assignment itself. I give them a bookmark with WC info on it, as well, and most students keep this in their textbook as a reminder. Some instructors have me visit twice a semester so that students get a quick overview and then a reminder visit with more in-depth assistance (in the form of recommendations or a writing Q&A session) as they prepare to draft or revise an assignment in the course.

2. While professors are discouraged from requiring ALL students in a course to schedule a Writing Center session or from awarding bonus points to individual students who visit the Writing Center, you could require a **portion of the class** to go OR require students to visit the WC in **GROUPS** of 3-4. That would help us keep up with traffic and would help us avoid traffic from students who are not there to work but only want the yellow sheet (the appointment record)—not the help with their papers.

3. You can add Writing Center location, hours, and details directly to the **assignment sheet**. Here's the **blurb** I use on my syllabus and assignment sheets:

The RSU English and Humanities' Writing Center is in Baird Hall, Room 206 with two satellite tutoring locations on the Pryor campus (room 103) and the Bartlesville campus (room 725). There, students may access **free writing help** with any college-level paper at any point of time while they are students at RSU. The Writing Consultants are friendly and professional and can help students with any writing issue. Writing help is available over the phone or online for students who are working full-time or who have transportation issues. Call 918-343-7838 for more information.

4. You can walk your students down to the Writing Center for an **in-Center orientation**. One prof in Communications does this every semester. I think students remember the location and services better when they get up and move! We can make the orientation as long or as short as you like, though they generally last 10-15 minutes.

5. Here are some **ways other profs encourage their students** to go. One Communications prof tells his students that while they don't get extra points for going to the WC, he does tend to grade papers from students he knows have been there "with a softer heart" because he knows they worked hard. One History prof tells his students that while they don't get extra points, in his experience, students who use WC services make better grades ("usually As and Bs") in his classes. Three profs in English/Humanities have had me draft emails directly to their class to explain specifically how we can help with a specific upcoming assignment. I tell my own students that when I receive a yellow sheet (appointment record) for one of them that it tells me that they are working hard and I am always happy to see that!