



CORE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

1. **We help writers, not writing.** We prioritize students' long-term development as writers, not just their success on one assignment.
2. **Writing is a mode of thinking,** not just a means of expressing thought. We want students to experience how the writing process allows them to interact with and transform how they think.
3. **We value the diversity of students' identities** and support students as they mature as unique writers and thinkers.
4. **Conversing with writers about their writing helps them gain clarity** about what they're thinking and how to best express those thoughts to a reader.
5. **These conversations are more productive with a clear agenda and shared expectations.** We train Writing Hub tutors to establish an agenda and expectations at the start of each session.
6. **The tutor's role is to help the writer reach their own insights about what works** and what can be improved in their writing and writing process. The tutor is not an instructor.
7. We facilitate the writer's insights by focusing on a few key strategies:
 - **offering a supportive reader's feedback**—we help writers confirm/disconfirm their own instincts about their writing by sharing the reader's experience of their writing;
 - **asking the right questions**—we model the kinds of questions skillful writers ask themselves to strengthen and clarify their writing;
 - **approaching weaknesses through strengths**—we recognize that a writer's understanding of what works well in their writing is as important as their recognition of what can be better;
 - **prioritizing feedback**—whenever appropriate, we focus first on higher order concerns (responding to the assignment, following genre and disciplinary conventions, presenting information logically and clearly, etc.) before addressing lower order concerns (sentence-level mechanics, style, etc.);
 - **highlighting expectations**—we help writers understand the expectations for Edited American Academic English in the discipline/genre in which they are writing.
8. **We never comment negatively** about an instructor, class, or assignment.
9. **We never comment on grades,** even innocently (e.g. "This looks like an A paper to me!"). The role of the tutor is to help student writers develop, not to evaluate their writing.
10. **Students' work is their own responsibility.** We never take actions that would undermine academic integrity or deprive students of their agency over their writing and thinking; students who use our services are solely responsible for the decisions they make about their writing before, during, and after their visits to the Writing Hub.