



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 the writing process as a means for transforming how they think.
3. **We value the diversity of students' identities** and support students as they mature as unique writers and thinkers. Our aim is to empower them to make informed choices about their writing.
4. **Their insights, not ours.** 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.
5. **Conversation creates clarity.** 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.
6. We facilitate the writer's insights by focusing on a few key strategies in our conversations:
 - **supportive reader's feedback**—we help writers confirm or revise their own instincts about their writing by sharing an informed reader's experience of their writing;
 - **asking the right questions**—we model the kinds of questions skillful writers ask themselves to strengthen their writing so that students can analyze their own work more effectively;
 - **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, taking an appropriate qualified and complex position on a topic, etc.) before addressing lower-order concerns (sentence-level mechanics, style, etc.);
 - **weaknesses through strengths**—we help students recognize what is working well in their writing so that they can better see what can be improved.
7. **We don't throw shade and we don't give grades.** We never comment negatively about an instructor, class, or assignment, and 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 assess their writing.
8. **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.