What happens in a Writing Center session?

Mostly, it is conversation. This might seem surprising, but conversations about writing help people become better writers over time. Writers will work one-on-one with writing center consultants (who are students too!), and they will be asked a lot of questions about the assignment, the writer’s goals for the text, the work accomplished so far, the due date, and any other relevant concerns. Consultants ask these questions because this process helps writers clarify their goals and intentions for the paper, which helps consultants know what to look for as both people read through the paper together.
Face-to-Face Consultations

When writers come into the center for a face-to-face session, either the writer or the consultant will read the paper aloud, focusing on feedback rather than correction.

Reading aloud enables writers and readers to hear things that wouldn’t be noticed when reading silently. Reading aloud also helps catch overly long sentences, strange rhythms, and repeated words.

It might be surprising just how much it helps to hear what is written. As the paper is read aloud, it is then possible to listen for ways of improving the writing – ways to make it reflect the writer’s ideas as clearly and effectively as possible. Both writers and readers often stop along the way to talk about possible changes.

The Online Writing Center

Using our Online Writing Center (OWC) begins through the IM chat window found on our home page. Using an iSpartan account, readers and writers can both interact with the text. Through cell phone and chat box, consultants and writers engage in conversation about the writing. Even though writers and readers are connecting online, the most important part of the session is still dialogue!

Like all writing center sessions, the paper is read aloud and consultants ask many questions about the text, encouraging writers to explain their ideas, expand on areas in the paper that might need developing, or help clarify passages that seem unclear.

Orientation Tours For Classes

We invite instructors to schedule an orientation tour for their students as early as possible during the students’ time at UNCG.

Visiting the Writing Center helps students see writers and consultants going through the process of reading texts and engaging in conversation. It also helps writers to see that the Writing Center is a welcoming place, ready to provide feedback.