

Foxcroft Academy Writing Center



perspective from students and teachers

Introductions

Nick Miller: English Teacher and Co-Director of the Writing Center

Bridget Wright: English Teacher and Co-Director of the Writing Center

Racquel Bozzelli: Senior Writing Coach

Ting-Chen Kang: Senior Writing Coach

Kathleen Bayerdorffer: Sophomore Writing Coach

Familiarity

With Writing Centers

Did your high school have a Writing Center?

Did your college have a Writing Center?

Does your current school have a Writing Center?

Foxcroft Academy: An Overview

Independent Town Academy

Rural Central Maine

Day and Boarding Students

450 students: 100 boarding

1:1 iPad



Mission

The Writing Center aims to improve the culture of writing at Foxcroft Academy, thus contributing to the school's overall mission and supporting the notion that "Knowledge is Power." Our goal is to provide a safe environment for any student to request help and receive support related to all forms of writing at Foxcroft Academy. Writing Coaches will never judge, only guide, discuss, and build upon a peer's writing. We hope to provide students with skills needed to continue to build their personal writing abilities.

Promotional Video

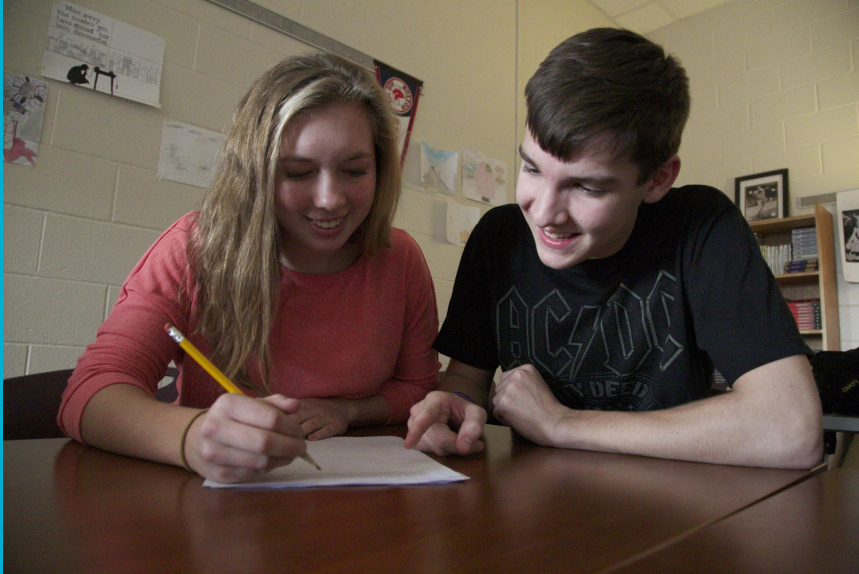
Student Produced



Coaches v. Tutors

“Coaches can help build the skills you need to win a game, but they can't play the game for you”

The Vision: Where the Idea Came From



- The University of Maine and The University of Maine at Farmington
- Graduate course at UM: Writing and the Teaching of Writing with Dr. David Boardman

Plan v. Practice: The Course

- Started practice coaching sessions earlier
 - Planned to start in January, actually started in October
- Spend more time on Handbook, Website, and Promo Material
 - The quality and depth of these projects warranted more time
- Did not submit writing to contests or publications
 - Will likely happen in future years
- Heavy on class discussion rather than writing
 - The discussion we had formed the heart of the writing center philosophy
 - We'd like to incorporate more writing

Plan vs. Practice: Website

The First Website

The Current Website

The Writing Center

By Ponies, for Ponies

[HOME](#) [Mission and Vision](#) [Why a Writing Center?](#) [Feedback](#) [More](#)

Welcome, Let's get started!



The Foxcroft Academy Writing Center is a floating center staffed by students. All tutors are trained and have taken the Writing Center course, taught by Mrs. Wright and Mr. Miller. Students can sign up for a tutoring session to brainstorm an essay, polish a piece, or edit a lab report. The possibilities for session content are endless! Let us help you become a stronger writer.

ACADEMICS

- Curriculum
- Course Guide
- Apple Distinguished School
- iPad Initiative
- The Arts
 - > Visual Arts
 - > Theater
 - > Music
 - > Filmmaking
- Power School
- Writing Center
 - > Frequently Asked Questions
 - > Meet the Coaches
 - > Resources
- Academic Hall of Fame

Counseling Services

Information Technology

Muriel Philpot Watson

Library

WRITING CENTER



The Writing Center is a service provided by Foxcroft Academy students to help anyone in the FA community become a better writer. Our Writing Coaches are trained in a semester-long course that helps them to become proficient in writing and one-to-one tutoring.

Our Systems

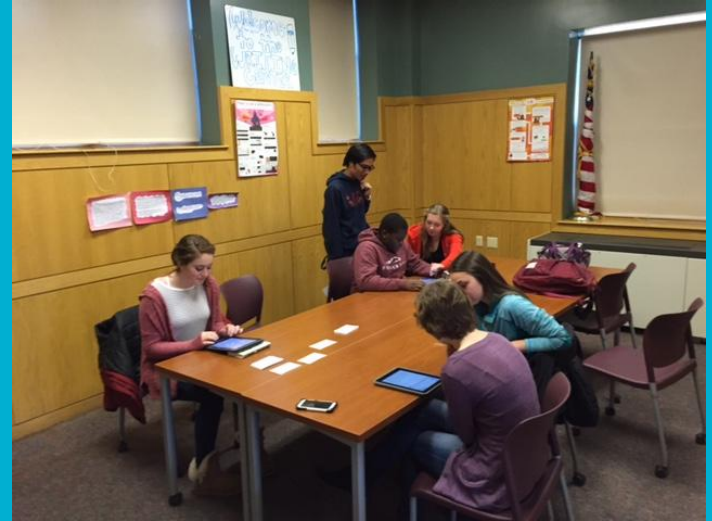
- [iTunes U](#)
- [FA Website](#)
- Social Media
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - IFTT
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Tumblr](#)

**WHEN A STUDENT SPECIFICALLY ASKS TO
HAVE A SESSION WITH YOU**



Support from Faculty and Admin

- Support and encouragement from day one
- Course Guide
- Scheduling Chaos
 - Bending over backwards to schedule our course
- Space
 - Initial “Floating” idea
 - Support for a “student only” location
 - Head installed phone
 - Emergency plan altered for WC



Picture taken by Head on a visit to the WC

What does a conference look like?

- Walk in or appointment
- Introduce yourself- make the student comfortable
- What's the prompt- what do you want to work on?
- Read paper aloud
 - In sections or as a whole
 - Find errors and things to address
 - Identify ways to strengthen writing
- Coach and Client surveys
- Invitation to come back or reach out to coach
- Lollipop



Racquel

I joined the Writing Center to help other students

My expectation for the writing center were not very detailed

I was able to look very closely at my own writing process

New perspective



Ting

I joined the Writing Center because of my love for writing and also because I wanted to help others become confident

I discovered that I could help others hone their writing skills, and also improve my own writing greatly by being exposed to other people's writing pieces and styles

People believe initially that we are the key to a perfect A on an essay/writing piece



Kathleen

I joined the Writing Center to help others improve their writing skills in a comfortable place.

The Writing Center was created to improve writing at FA...

By helping other students, it's easier to identify mistakes in my own work.

As a Writing Coach, you're only there to help. No writing, no line editing.



Taken by Mr. Miller at UMaine.

Early Expectations and Reservations

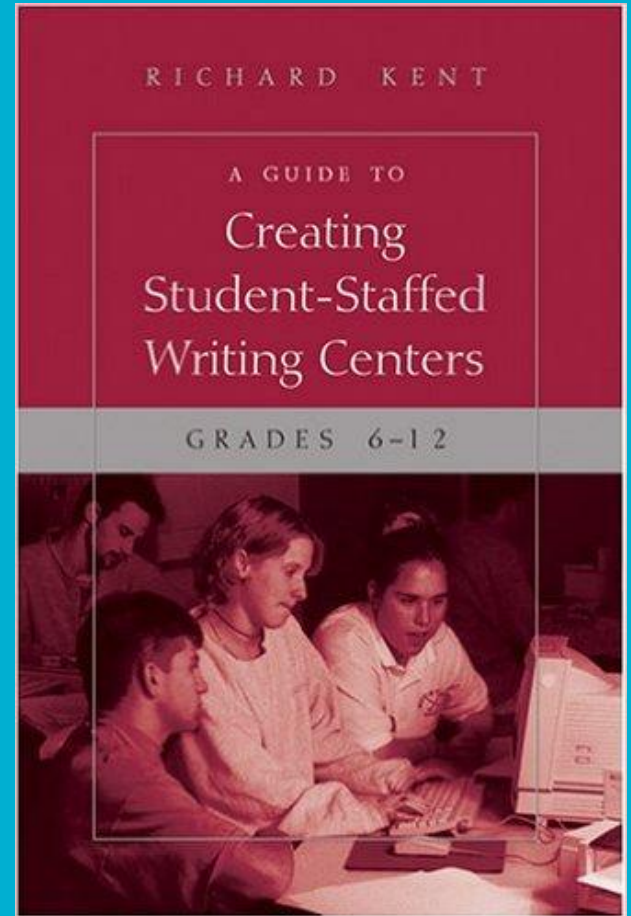
- Line editing
- Guaranteeing Grades
- Disruptive Students
- Saying “I don’t know”

**THAT AWK MOMENT WHEN
YOU DON'T KNOW THE
ANSWER**



Research and Resources

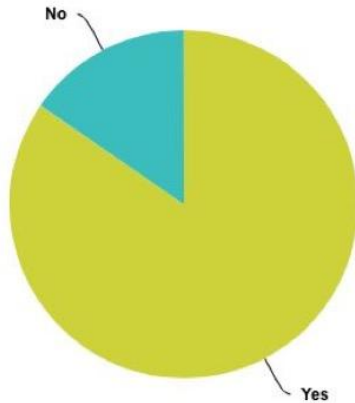
- UMaine field trip
- Skype and continued discussion with Dr. Richard Kent
- Review writing center websites
- Explore other handbooks



Research Survey

Is English your first language?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 84.62% 55 |
| No | 15.38% 10 |
| Total | 65 |

Have you ever used a writing center before?

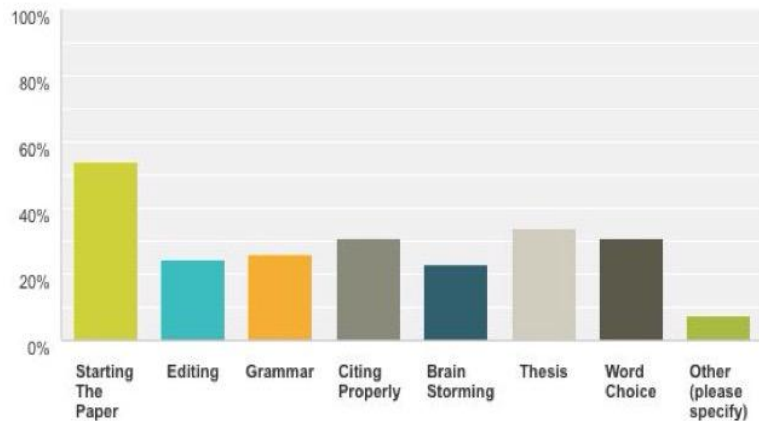
Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 4.62% 3 |
| No | 95.38% 62 |
| Total | 65 |

What is your greatest struggle when writing a paper? You may chose more than one response

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

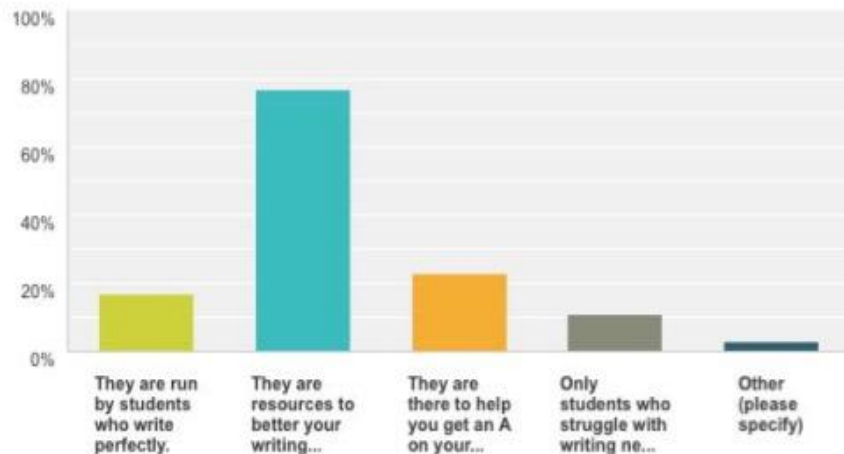


| Answer Choices | Responses | Count |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Starting The Paper | 53.85% | 35 |
| Editing | 24.62% | 16 |
| Grammar | 26.15% | 17 |
| Citing Properly | 30.77% | 20 |
| Brain Storming | 23.08% | 15 |
| Thesis | 33.85% | 22 |
| Word Choice | 30.77% | 20 |
| Other (please specify) | 7.69% | 5 |

Total Respondents: 65

What are some ideas you believe to be true about writing centers? You may choose more than one response.

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

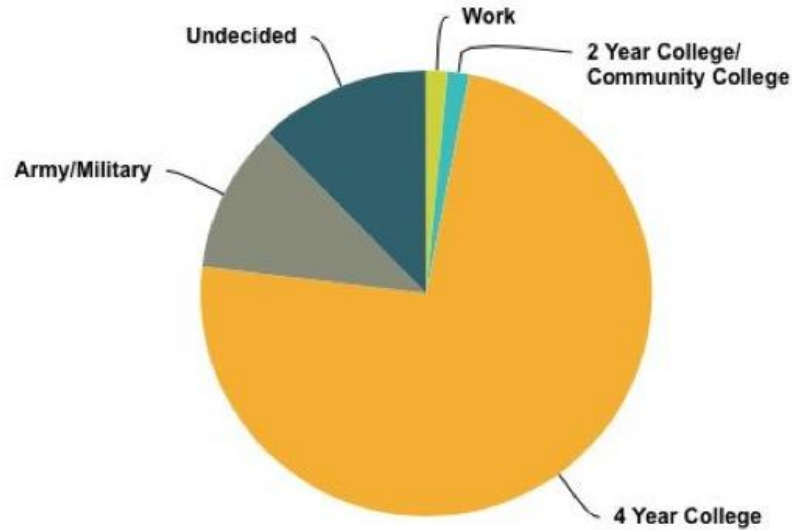


| Answer Choices | Responses | Count |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| They are run by students who write perfectly. | 16.92% | 11 |
| They are resources to better your writing skills. | 76.92% | 50 |
| They are there to help you get an A on your paper. | 23.08% | 15 |
| Only students who struggle with writing need to go to the writing center. | 10.77% | 7 |
| Other (please specify) | 3.08% | 2 |

Total Respondents: 65

What are your plans post graduation?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Work | 1.54% 1 |
| 2 Year College/ Community College | 1.54% 1 |
| 4 Year College | 73.85% 48 |
| Army/Military | 10.77% 7 |
| Undecided | 12.31% 8 |
| Total | 65 |

Student-driven Projects



- Social Media Team
 - Website
 - Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Tumblr
 - Handbook Team
 - Resources for Students
 - Paper Advertisement Team
 - Posters
 - QR Codes
 - Bulletin Board
-

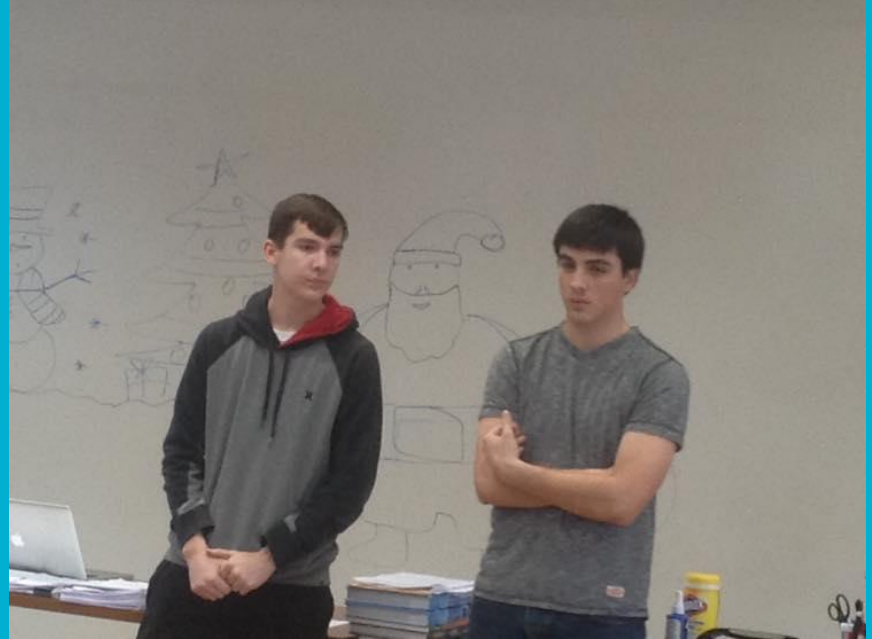
Writing Center in Action

- The Kick Off
 - Announcements and video at assembly
- First Conferences
 - The joy of the first conference
 - Got the ball rolling
- Initial Reception
 - Positive Feedback from students
 - 42 conferences recorded in 6 weeks



Reception by Faculty and Admin

- Support from Admin was essential
- Faculty appreciated hearing from Coaches
- Faculty encourage students to visit Writing Center
 - Bridge Program English
 - Bridge Program Social Studies
 - English Faculty



Writing Center: Beyond the Plouff Room

- English teacher invited coaches to teach mini-lessons
- Visit to the local middle school
- Sessions in the Library



Collecting Feedback

- QR Code to Survey
- Quick Simple Survey
- Directors have access
- Used initial feedback to focus discussions in class



The image shows a screenshot of a feedback survey form titled "Writing Center Feedback" from Foxcroft Academy. The form is set against a dark red header with the "Writing Center" logo and the name "FOX CROFT" in large, spaced-out letters. The survey text explains that feedback is collected to improve services and is anonymous. It includes three questions: "Your name", "Coach's Name", and "Was this your first visit to the Writing Center?". The first two questions have text input fields, and the last one has radio buttons for "Yes".

Writing Center

FOX CROFT

Writing Center Feedback

In order to improve the services offered at the Writing Center, we collect feedback after each session. Feedback will reviewed by the Writing Center directors and coaches. All feedback coaches see will be anonymous. Data collected from feedback may also be used in future classes, training, and presentations related to the Writing Center at Foxcroft Academy.

*** Required**

Your name
Your answer _____

Coach's Name
Your answer _____

Was this your first visit to the Writing Center? *

Yes

Student Testimonials

“She helped me understand why certain things in my paper didn't make sense and gave me examples of how to make more sense with quite a few things and it was nice to have someone else's eyes on my paper.”

“The people are really nice and they never judge how far along in your paper you are or if something doesn't quite go together. They are always really helpful.”

“It was helpful for my situation to have someone to help me when I'm writing and stressing out about a paper.”

“I'd visit again because it's good place to go for help or reassurance if I don't have a clear understanding of what I'm doing and to organize a steady thought process.”

Momentum: Looking Ahead

- Course Syllabus
 - No “creation planning” necessary, but upkeep is important
 - Practice sessions with coach mentors in Writing Center
 - More writing
- Turnover
 - Balancing grade-level ratios
 - Credit or Community Service?
 - Scheduling
- Opportunities for Expansion
 - Space
 - Field Trips
 - Training

Q&A

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#writeonponies

When someone
actually walks into
the writing center

