The COWS Come Home

Remember when the Writing Center was on the second floor of Olin, in a horrid, window-less closet? Neither do we. We’ve been in our brand new location, Olin East E132, for as long as we’d care to remember. The space is vibrant and welcoming, at once stimulating and laid back. Between our delightful color scheme and our copious cow art, our abundant supplies and our view of Ankeney, the new COWS location is unmistakable. It’s so good to be home!

Contents!

Page 2
What’s Been Goin’ On
We’ve had a great year!

Page 3
What’s Comin’ Up Next
We’ve got exiting plans!

Page 4
From the Tutors’ Desk
Reflections on the COWS tutoring experience

VISIT THE COWS!
In Olin East E132

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>7 to Midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>7 to Midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>7 to Midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th</td>
<td>7 to Midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>3 to 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>2 to 5 pm, 7 to Midnight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For an appointment, visit: mywco.com/whitman
We’ve Been Busy…

Last semester we served more students than ever in the COWS, with over 500 appointments! And 96% of our clients rated their experience as “good,” “very good,” or “excellent”! This puts us in the ideal spot: we’re doing great, and we have room to improve!

Workshops

This year’s tutor-led workshop series was a great success. Hosted on Tuesdays in the COWS, these workshops addressed specific writing skills such as writing introductions, crafting argumentative theses, conducting and citing research, and developing a voice.

Thesis Boot Camps

Each semester, we hosted two boot camps. These very well attended events provided a structured, disciplined setting for thesis-writers to get a lot of writing done. They have proven extremely popular—and between all that productivity, fellowship with other writers, and free food, it isn’t hard to see why!

Penrose Learning Commons

It was a successful first year for the Penrose Learning Commons. The COWS teamed up with the ARC, the SEC, and the Library Research Assistants to put tutors in the Library four nights a week. Find them on the main floor near the bathrooms, Sunday through Wednesday from 9 to 11 pm.

The NW5C Conference

In February, Whitman sent a group of directors and tutors, including our very own Annie Sirski (tutor), Jesse Moneyhun (tutor), Allie Donahue (tutor), Lydia McDermott (director), and Jonas Myers (assistant director), to the first Northwest Five College Peer Tutoring Conference, at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. It was a productive and engaging weekend. Our tutors, along with subject tutors from the ARC and ESL tutors from the LLC, got to collaborate and coordinate with peer tutors from UPS, Lewis & Clark, and Willamette. It was a blast!

A Cabin in the Woods...

Over Spring Break, COWS director Prof. Lydia McDermott organized a faculty writing retreat at the Johnston Wilderness Campus, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Four days in a beautiful setting with no internet access is a great way to get stuff done. No surprise, then, that many of those in attendance finished papers or book chapters. One professor even finished her book! Every division was represented, and by the end, the general consensus was that this should happen again as soon as possible.
Putting the S in ‘COWS’

We are so much more than a COW. We are COWS. But in order to truly deserve that plural, we’re rolling out the Speaking portion of our program (as in, Center for Writing and Speaking) starting in the fall. In collaboration with Heather Hayes and the Rhetoric Department, we will begin employing speaking tutors who can help with oral presentations, video essays, thesis defenses, and other academic speaking tasks. In addition to our main Center, we have two offices next door, available for tutors and students to work on speaking and not bother, or be bothered by, other clients. Stay tuned for more information!

Take Composition!

- **COMP 170** – Language & Writing
- **COMP 210** – Intermediate Composition
- **COMP 310** – The Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing
- **COMP 320** – Advanced Composition

Work in the COWS!

Love to write? Work well with udders? Want to make good moolah, beef up your resume? Like to ruminate about the writing process? Then it would behoove you to apply to be a COWS tutor! Email Prof. Lydia McDermott at mcdermlm@whitman.edu if you’re interested.

Want to know more? Visit us at whitman.edu/cows
From the Tutors’ Desk

Marisa Ikert

One of the things I like best about tutoring in the COWS is how much I’m able to learn from my clients. It’s always fun to work with writers who are in the brainstorming phase, because we can work together collaboratively and build off each other’s ideas to both come to a new understanding of the material. …Motivating students with their writing is also a great motivating factor for your own writing!

Julia Thompson

My experience working at the COWS over the last two years has been overwhelmingly positive and rewarding. I feel that the job has made me think critically not only about writing itself but about effective verbal communication, interpersonal skills, and pedagogical aspects of writing and learning. My favorite tutoring sessions are ones in which the student has discovered something new, whether or not it was with my help. It’s exciting for me to see the proverbial lightbulb go off for a tutee when they realize how to employ a certain brainstorming strategy or writing technique to their advantage.

Students Love the COWS

Teagan

“The Writing Center is one of the best resources Whitman has to offer. I know that whenever I feel anxious about completing a paper, I can go to the writing center and the tutors will unfailingly provide excellent advice, no matter what stage of the writing process I’m in. Also, they have coffee, which speaks for itself.”

Tianming

“Sometimes I’m not sure if my paper is clear but... they make my paper have better structure and express myself clearly [and my] organization more clearly.”