This week's writing center chat centers on group tutoring.

“Join #wcchat in about 20 minutes to share and gain ideas about group tutoring. #wcchat”
Lamar Writing Center
4 days ago

“In thinking about group tutoring let's consider not only a group of Ss w/1 tutor but also 2 or more tutors working with 1 student. #wcchat”
Lamar Writing Center
4 days ago

“@LamarWC Interesting idea. We don't really have the ability to have more than one staffer work with writers for a full session. #wcchat”
Alan Benson
4 days ago

“#wcchat Rollins College here, from (too hot & sunny) Central Florida. Hello!”
RollinsSource
4 days ago
@LamarWC Though it is common for consultants to pull in others ad hoc to work on thorny problems. #wcchat
4 days ago

@LamarWC #wcchat I hadn't thought about groups in that context. Do you think the student might feel intimidated?
4 days ago

@alanbenson @LamarWC #wcchat I think this kind of ad hoc thing happens all the time, just didn't think to consider it as group work.
4 days ago

That's very possible. I've only used it when training new tutors (the new tutor assists) so intimidation hasn't been an issue... + #wcchat
4 days ago

#wcchat Two on one, interesting. Some classes come to us & we have a writing consultant and a content tutor—illustrates different help
4 days ago
@LamarWC #wcchat great idea for those in training! Observe and participate when so moved. 

@RollinsSource Usually some tutors are better at it than others. Some students benefit more from it, too. ESL does group tutoring the most. #wcchat

@LamarWritingCenter ...but I think when the assignment is complex and 2/3 tutors of differing strengths can help in their own ways it may not be intim. #wcchat

@PPCCWritingCenter "Group tutoring" at PPCC means one tutor works with more than one student. Is that what was meant by "group tutoring?" #wcchat

@RollinsSource Yes, my new tutors observe a few first. My experienced tutors are good about asking the new ones for their input. #wcchat
How often do you have multiple students with 1 text? Thinking of group writing assignments where more than 1 student might come in. #wcchat

tengrrl 4 days ago

@ppctutor Originally, yes, but I thought it would be interesting to consider a group (or pair) or tutors with one student. #wcchat

Lamar Writing Center 4 days ago

@tengrrl We get it all the time. Often, profs will send their entire classes to us for one assignment. #wcchat

PPCC Writing Center 4 days ago

@tengrrl Usually the tutor will "juggle" the students, moving between them but addressing universal issues while doing so. #wcchat

PPCC Writing Center 4 days ago

#wcchat Our business writers often do group papers and end up coming in together. Dicey when each has done 1 part: uneven in many ways.

RollinsSource 4 days ago
@tengrrl ...that way there is both discussion between the students and they're getting tutored at the same time. #wcchat

4 days ago

But as noted, not every tutor has the talent to juggle students. It requires a lot of adaptability and patience. #wcchat

4 days ago

@tengrrl We don't get many but more over the last 2 semesters. #wcchat

4 days ago

It works well to get students working during the session. While the tutor helps another student, the other student has time to apply #wcchat

4 days ago

@ppcctutor @tengrrl #wcchat ...a universal issue: e.g. transitions? Would he/she say to all: Everyone look now at your transitions?

4 days ago
@RollinsSource Uneven, yes -- but very real-world. Many times I've had one "boss" giving feedback on group-written documents #wcchat
4 days ago

tengrrl

@ppcctutor #wcchat I like the idea that one can be applying while tutor is working w/ another, then tutor goes back to see what she did
4 days ago

RollinsSource

My tutors ask the others specific questions about another student's part --keeps everyone engaged and attentive during the session.
#wcchat
4 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

@RollinsSource @ppcctutor I like this strategy too. #wcchat
4 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

#wcchat Currently, we only work with groups when they have worked together to create text.
4 days ago

Brandy Grabow
#wcchat Seeing grp tutoring by subject happening in math and sciences center makes me wonder if a similar idea might work for wcs.

Brandy Grabow

@pectutor like drop-in group tutoring in content areas. Group doesn't work as a whole ever; tutor goes to those who need help. #wcchat

RollinsSource

Anyone else have the problem of just 1 student coming in to get help with a collaborative text? #wcchat

Lamar Writing Center

#wcchat Should have prefaced that we are a part of a larger Tutorial Center than includes math & sciences.

Brandy Grabow

@LamarWC #wcchat Also ensures that each writer pays attention to the other parts, even if they didn't write them. Very real-world.

RollinsSource
@LamarWC #wcchat yes. And may not know much about those other parts. Sigh.

@BrandyGrabow #wcchat As are we! Same space, writing and other tutoring going on. I train/supervise both. ~10% content tutoring=group

#wcchat Any ideas how group tutoring by subject might work?

@RollinsSource Also we can't be instructional if the errors don't "belong" to the student. He/she isn't very engaged at that point.+

@RollinsSource + So we now require all Ss to be present; otherwise, we work with only the part the attending student wrote. #wcchat
@RollinsSource #wcchat I've learned a lot coming here from a stand alone wc.

Brandy Grabow

4 days ago

#wcchat Our policies state all members of a group must be present. We send individuals away. #wcchat

Brandy Grabow

4 days ago

@LamarWC I like that. Too often do groups put most of the work on one student. That ensures everyone's doing their part #wcchat

PPCC Writing Center

4 days ago

@BrandyGrabow #wcchat Students coming for test/exam prep is best: tutor gathers knowledge of group together, keeps on track, adds when needs

RollinsSource

4 days ago

@BrandyGrabow #wcchat great idea! and to be prepared to critique others' parts?

RollinsSource

4 days ago
@RollinsSource Wonder if we advertised group sessions by assignment type. #wcchat
4 days ago
Brandy Grabow

For a grad engineering class we conducted sessions with 3-4 Ss and the representative abstract of 1 student--like mini-workshops. #wcchat
4 days ago
Lamar Writing Center

"Need to work on Rhet. Analysis? Grp meeting Tuesday @ 5" kind of thing? Worth thinking about? #wcchat
4 days ago
Brandy Grabow

@ppcctutor Exactly! And since I do a lot of collaborative work in my classes I picked up on that in the wc very quickly :) #wcchat
4 days ago
Lamar Writing Center

@BrandyGrabow Definitely worth thinking about. #wcchat
4 days ago
Lamar Writing Center
@LamarWC Great idea! #wcchat

@RollinsSource Haven't given the "be prepared" speech, might be effective. Then the session might be more workshop. I like it! #wcchat

@BrandyGrabow Thanks. The brave volunteers received specific help and their classmates got the needed instruction. #wcchat

#wcchat great idea. A how-to-approach this kind of assignment. Perhaps with example syllabi/assignments to show how the prof describes it

@LamarWC I like that it would require departmental cooperation, but isn't as course specific as fellows. #wcchat
@BrandyGrabow It shouldn't be difficult to get dept. cooperation for targeted writing assistance. The profs should welcome it! #wcchat
4 days ago

Group tutoring is great for those assignment clarification sessions. We've had groups come to us right after getting an assignment.
#wcchat
4 days ago

@LamarWC Guess I have something new to think about for fall. :)
#wcchat
4 days ago

@BrandyGrabow It wouldn't be fall without something new to think about or implement ;) #wcchat
4 days ago

#wcchat Have to run, but thanks everyone!
4 days ago
We encourage profs to tell their students to come in small groups if they're going to require citation sessions (and many do). #wcchat

@BrandyGrabow Thanks for your input today! #wcchat

In group tutoring, how to resist urge to teach v tutor? #Wcchat

@Professing Focus on asking questions and engage the Ss by asking for their input: "Amy, how do you think John should reword this?" #wcchat

@Professing Also, I think the group must be working on the same paper or there for the same issue(s) in their own papers. #wcchat
Look out for an announcement to vote for next week's topic. Also, I'll send the Google Doc link so that you can add your topic sugg. #wcchat

4 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

Thanks everyone. That was very insightful. :) #wcchat

4 days ago

PPCC Writing Center

Thanks everyone for your insightful ideas and thought-provoking ?s. Lee Ann will archive the chat. Great training topic! #wcchat

4 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

@LamarWC thanks. (prof is my alterego--personal self rather than public writing center self) #Wcchat

4 days ago

gwwritingcenter

@Professing Any strategy that makes the session like a guided peer critique session should prevent teaching over tutoring. #wcchat

4 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

@gwwritingcenter Ah, I thought we had a new member! Thx for the excellent question. wish more could have responded during the chat. #wcchat

4 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

#wcchat Bye everyone! Sorry I was out for the last 20 min; intern needed assistance. Good that I can see everyone's tweets. Next week!

4 days ago

RollinsSource