Basics of Writing Center Theory

BASIC TENETS OF WRITING TUTORING:

- Tutoring is **contextual**.
- Tutoring is **collaborative**.
- Tutoring is **interpersonal**.
- Tutoring is **individualized**.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES:

For a deeper understanding of these principles, the **International Writing Center Association** offers the following guidelines (Harris):

“**Tutorials are offered in a one-to-one setting.**” Our own model is based on focused peer collaboration. Whether tutors work with students in the library or in the DEWC itself, the goal is for tutors & writers to engage in a conversation about the text.

“**Tutors are coaches and collaborators, not teachers.**” Your goal is not to evaluate or lecture, but rather to facilitate conversation, to offer productive feedback, and to listen.

“**Each student's individual needs are the focus of the tutorial.**” Affirming student-centeredness and attentiveness is a primary concern as we go about our work in the center each day.

“**Experimentation and practice are encouraged.**” Writing centers are informal, experimental, and active; development happens in a variety of forms for both students from consultants

“**Writers work on writing from a variety of courses [and disciplines].**” We should each be mindful of our own disciplinary biases and make ourselves available to all students across the university.

“**Writing consultations are available for students at all levels of writing proficiency.**” We serve all student writers and we work to provide support for a range of needs.