

## Writing Ability For a Math Class??

Much of our lab will be WORD lab reports you submit weekly, where you describe the procedures/results you perform on various topics of the week. You are expected to write correctly, with proper sentence structure, spelling, grammar, etc. Even though this is not an English class, you still need to be able to communicate your technical proficiency correctly and poignantly. With this thrust in mind, I found an article in "Bear Necessities", which I am including in this file, in case you need some brush up help. Notice the service offered here is free.

Finally, I am not a stickler on English (because I don't profess to be an expert in the subject), but I do try to be communicative and correct, and I ask that you do, also. FYI.

6 Missoulian, Sunday, August 22, 2010 BEAR NECESSITIES

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# Communication skills required

## *UM Writing Center provides assistance in all disciplines*

By JAYME FRASER  
for the Missoulian

**T**he echoes of high school English teachers will ring painfully true for many freshmen. Regardless of major, writing is an important skill to master.

And the University of Montana's Writing Center is ready to help, whether it's an English essay, biology research paper or a welding fabrication proposal.

"It's not just to help students in writing courses," director Kelly Peterson said. "Last academic year, we served students from 50 different disciplines."

The Writing Center is a free service for all UM students housed in Liberal Arts 144 and occasionally available in the library. Professional tutors with degrees in a variety of fields are available by appointments, along with some walk-in services, which can easily cost more than \$20 an hour elsewhere.

Students shouldn't be discouraged or intimidated by the title "professional," Peterson said.

"We are in a pretty privileged position because we don't have to grade you or test you," she said. "We are here to help you achieve your writing goals. It's a really safe place."

The Writing Center is the place to go, whether your goal is to decipher what exactly the professor wants from an assignment, receive help with brainstorming, or polishing a final draft.

"We are here to help them at any part of their writing process," Peterson said. "Part of the writing process is even just doing some thinking."

"They get to rehearse the kind of

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## **Writing**

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intellectual dialogue they should be having with their peers in the classroom," she said.

But the tutors' assistance and expertise doesn't stop at classwork.

"You can also bring in writing projects you are working on outside of class," Peterson said. "Many scholarships require a personal statement and we can help you craft that."

Similarly, Peterson emphasized the center is a valuable resource for all writers, not just those grappling to pass a course.

"Good writers need readers, too," Peterson said.

The center also hosts workshops for the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Assessment. If this is the first you've heard of the exam, don't worry. Peterson and her staff are prepared to help.

The WPA is a timed writing test offered six times a year. Every student must pass the test before graduation and can register, for free, as many times as needed to complete it. The test is generally taken for the first time late sophomore or early junior year. The Writing Center helps students prepare for the exam by reviewing the prompt and testing timed-writing techniques.

"In most cases, people feel anxious because they don't know what to expect," Peterson said. "The Writing Center is an ideal place to rehearse the kinds of writing strategies that they need."

Peterson's staff teaches similar strategies to students preparing for a written final or midterm exam.

Last year, students made more than 4,000 appointments at the Writing Center for assistance with a variety of projects.

"Almost every student that comes in once comes in again because we are a really supportive group that wants students to succeed," Peterson said.

The Writing Center in LA 144 is open 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday through Friday during the school year. Visit [www.umt.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/) or call 243-2266 to learn more about their services or schedule an appointment.

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