

**Writing Self-Assessment and Writing Center Conference  
CUSP 104 and CUSP 107 Fall, 2010**

Your name:

Course #:

Course instructor:

**You must complete questions 1 through 5 BEFORE your conference at the Writing Center.**

Making good use of the writing process enables us to accomplish two things: (1) extend our thinking and (2) communicate and share our ideas with readers. The goal of this exercise is to improve your use of the writing process by developing your skills as a thoughtful reader of your own writing and identifying areas on which to focus attention as you write and revise.

1. To help you sort out some of the elements that comprise the writing process, we are providing the following list, prepared by the Writing Center to describe work in conferences.

- Read the list and consider briefly the effectiveness of your writing process in dealing with each item.
- Note the elements on the list about which you have questions or concerns.

Developing a project:

- \_\_\_ understanding the assignment
- \_\_\_ discovering or refining a topic
- \_\_\_ constructing a thesis
- \_\_\_ researching a topic
- \_\_\_ synthesizing and integrating research
- \_\_\_ deciding on a rhetorical strategy
- \_\_\_ developing ideas
- \_\_\_ supporting ideas
- \_\_\_ organizing ideas
- \_\_\_ clarifying ideas
- \_\_\_ becoming aware of an audience

Mechanical/grammatical points of writing:

- \_\_\_ transitions (between paragraphs or sentences)
- \_\_\_ sentence structure (run-on's, comma splices, fragments, etc.)
- \_\_\_ paragraph structure (unity, topic sentences, etc.)
- \_\_\_ integrating quotations
- \_\_\_ word usage (accuracy)
- \_\_\_ verb usage (verb tense, subject-verb agreement, passive voice, etc.)
- \_\_\_ pronoun usage (pronoun-antecedent agreement, consistent POV, etc.)
- \_\_\_ conciseness/wordiness
- \_\_\_ punctuation
- \_\_\_ spelling
- \_\_\_ capitalization
- \_\_\_ quoting, paraphrasing and avoiding plagiarism
- \_\_\_ citation conventions (Chicago)
- \_\_\_ paper formatting (font, type size, margins, paragraph style)

2. As you reread the essay you wrote for this class, what strikes you as the strengths of your writing?

3. If you had an opportunity to revise the essay, what revisions would you make to strengthen it?

4. Think back on the process you used to write this essay. Briefly describe your process (e.g., how you prepared, what part you wrote first, how you revised.) How does your process with this assignment compare to other writing you've done? What kind of writing do you find most gratifying? What kind of writing do you find most challenging?

5. What kinds of feedback on your writing have you received from instructors, supervisors, peers, and other people who have responded to your writing?

**For your meeting at the Writing Center:**

Your name:

Date:

Writing Consultant's name:

In your meeting with the Writing Consultant, identify three specific goals you'll focus on to develop your writing skills this quarter and the strategies you'll use in order to achieve those goals.

Goal

Strategy

1.

2.

3.