FIRST TERM RESOURCE: WRITING YOUR FIRST DRAFT AND GETTING FEEDBACK

How many times have you written your entire first draft and wondered if this is what your professor wanted. Surprisingly, most writers and students alike will unanimously admit to this sinking feeling of confusion and frustration more widely known as Writer’s Block. Writing your first draft may be a scary experience at first, but getting the dreaded first draft on paper and utilizing proper feedback helps in the overall process of writing.

After finishing and submitting your draft for critique, you may be sitting in your chair, more frustrated than before, staring at a mountain of comments and wondering where you are supposed to go from here. This is normal, so begin breathing again! What do the comments say? Where did you take the draft for feedback? Many of the comments received may fall into one of the following categories:

- Thesis Statement
- Paragraph Development
- Introductions and Conclusions
- Audience
- Tone and Voice
- Transitions

Many instructors and writing center tutors alike focus on holistic feedback, or feedback that focuses on how all of the components of your paper work together, many of which are listed above. Beyond this point lies the Editing and Revising of your paper to suit the needs of the assignment. As you work to revise and edit your draft based on the holistic feedback you receive, remember the following:

- Stay positive! We are here to help! The feedback process may require multiple revisions to fully accomplish the assignment. Do not be discouraged! This process takes time, but it’s worth it.

- Utilize your resources! Jot down your concerns. Then visit an online tutor, ask a specific writing-related question through our Q & A service, or submit a paper for review. Our professional tutors will diligently assist you in any way possible!

Remember that the feedback you receive from instructors and tutors is designed to help you improve overall as a writer, becoming a more confident communicator in your classes, at work, and beyond.

Click here to talk with a tutor about this topic.