

Writing Fellows

Writers at all levels benefit from good feedback, and that's why the Writing Fellows Program recruits students to work with their peers in courses across the curriculum. Writing Fellows are chosen for their strength as writers and their interest in helping others to improve their writing. During their first semester in the program, Fellows participate in training seminars in the theory and practice of teaching writing.

Writing Fellows do not grade papers. As peers, Fellows serve as sympathetic readers, providing informed, constructive criticism directed toward the argumentation, analysis, organization, clarity and style of papers. After drafts of papers are returned, Writing Fellows meet with each of their students in conference. These conferences provide a chance to discuss revision strategies and work through additional concerns.

Writing Fellows work in a spirit of collegiality, helping to extend intellectual discourse beyond the classroom. Mutually engaged, Fellows and their students ultimately do more than focus on writing; they shape their own and each other's education, and in so doing they help to keep vibrant what is most unique and valuable about college education.

How the Program Works

Writing Fellows do not regularly attend the meetings of the class they are working with, nor fulfill other usual tasks of a course TA; their focus is on student writing alone.

When papers are due in a class, they are turned in to the Writing Fellow, who spends one week reading them, and writing comments. At the end of that week, papers and comments are returned to the students, and during the subsequent week each student meets individually with their Fellow to review the paper and the comments, and to work together on the project. At the end of that second week, the papers, as second drafts, are turned in to the professor, along with the set of the first drafts, and the set of the Fellow's comments. The professor will normally read only the set of second drafts, but the other materials are available to allow the professor to compare drafts, and to consult the Fellow's comments at will.

Typically, each Writing Fellow works with two classes each semester, whose writing projects will be due at different times. These classes range across the entire curriculum of the School, from Painting to Printmaking to Art History to Film and Video production.