

THE WRITING LAB

The Writing Lab is a combination of drop-in sessions and workshops designed specifically for undergraduates who wish to learn more about the essay-writing process and improve their essay-writing. Workshops will focus on specific aspects of essay writing, such as how to construct a logical argument, how to use quotations effectively, how to improve your punctuation, etc. The format for the workshops will usually be an introductory talk by the tutor, followed by practical exercises and group discussion at the end. Students are invited to use the drop-in sessions to raise any questions, issues or concerns they have about essay writing, either for assessed coursework or end-of-semester exams. The Writing Lab is primarily aimed at first- and second-year students of English, but all students of the School are welcome.

You will need to e-mail the Writing Lab tutor, John Pazdziora on jpp6@st-andrews.ac.uk if you intend to come to a particular workshop. This will allow him to gauge the number of handouts required. Feel free to e-mail with any questions about the Writing Lab itself. But remember, the tutor **cannot** answer questions about writing, essays, exams etc. via e-mail.

All workshops and drop-in sessions will take place at 1-2 pm on Fridays in the Garden Seminar Room, Kennedy Hall, with the exception of the week 11 drop-in session, which be held in Castle House, Room 30.

Timetable for the Writing Lab in Semester 2, 2011-2012

Date	Session
Week 3 (24 February)	Workshop: Close Reading
Week 4 (2 March)	Workshop: Planning Essays and Identifying Arguments (Understand the writing process, research, organize your ideas.)
Week 5 (9 March)	Workshop: Style, Structure & Punctuation (Write more efficiently and effectively. Avoid basic errors of punctuation and grammar.)
Week 6 (16 March)	Workshop: Finding Secondary Sources (Look at available library and research tools and evaluate the value and relevance of secondary reading.)
Week 7 (23 March)	Workshop: The Essay (This workshop will bring together all aspects discussed so far, providing students with the opportunity to critique sample essays.)

SPRING VACATION

- Week 8** (13 April) **Workshop: Self-Editing**
(Students will practice revising and thinking critically about their own prose and arguments.)
- Week 9** (20 April) **Drop-in Session**
(Students are welcome to email the tutor before 5 pm on Thursday night before the lab with any specific questions they may have about writing, researching, or their current essays; students may also attend unannounced with additional queries should they so desire.)
- Week 10** (27 April) **Workshop: Revision & Exam Essays**
(How to revise for the exam and write an effective exam essay.)
- Week 11** (4 May) **Drop-in Session. NB. HELD IN CASTLE HOUSE, ROOM 30.**

In addition to these sessions, there are two drop-in events scheduled for evening degree students, to be held on Monday and Thursday of week three (20 February and 23 February) in the Stephen Boyd room, Kennedy Hall. Evening degree students are also welcome at the events listed above.

- Week 3** **Evening Degree Drop-in Session**
(Students are welcome to email the tutor before 5 pm on Friday/Wednesday night before the lab with any specific questions they may have about writing, researching, or their current essays; students may also attend unannounced with additional queries should they so desire.)