Online Writing Centers Association would like to invite you to participate in our 2025

Professional Development Symposium

May 20, 2025

OWCA invites members to submit a presentation or workshop plan for our online symposium: a one-day event with engaging online sessions and opportunities for networking. We encourage all writing center folks of any level to participate, including writing center professionals, graduate students, and undergraduates. At the core of our symposium this year is the question: **How can we continue to better our human practices through writing center pedagogy?**

We invite you all to consider how critical professional development is for our growth as tutors and leaders within the writing center as well as our roles within our larger campuses and communities. How do the professional development opportunities you create and offer help foster collaboration, improve tutoring pedagogy, and highlight the significance of making the writing center-*vis a vis the world*- more accessible? Individuals interested in submitting a plan should consider how impactful writing center pedagogy can be in mentoring students, tutors, graduate students, and faculty through writing center events, workshops, or alternate forms of professional development.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the OWCA Conference Chair: Jenny Torres.

Deadlines and Conference Timeline
- Submit an abstract of your presentation or workshop
  - Priority Deadline - March 21, 2025
  - Final Deadline - March 28,2025
- Acceptances - Early April
- Conference Materials Due - May 9, 2025

Submit your presentation or workshop plan through this Google Form submission link.
The form will be available until March 21, 2025. All submission deadlines will be at midnight on Central Standard Time (CST). Read on for more information about OWCA membership and submission details.

Registration

An OWCA membership is required to present and/or attend OWCA 2025 as well as to access conference materials. One-year OWCA memberships are $5-15 for students and $40 for professionals. Learn more about [OWCA membership dues and benefits](.).

Submit a Presentation Plan

Submissions received by March 21, 2025 will be given priority consideration. The absolute last day to submit a presentation plan is March 28, 2025. We will notify presenters by early April and will provide feedback and/or suggestions. Submissions must include the following:
- All presenter name(s), role(s), institution(s), and email(s)
- Working title
- Session format and the reasoning for this particular format
- An abstract in written (about 250 words) or audio/video (3 minutes or less) format

Sessions should highlight participation through interactive conversations or activities that provide explicit opportunities for attendees to discuss, share, and/or create. Priority will be given to presentation plans that showcase skills or practices that other writing centers may be able to implement. These sessions can be in one of the following formats:
- **Professionalization Forums:** An opportunity to present best practices in professional skills (job applications, interviewing, etc.) or to provide advice to those entering the writing center job market.
- **General Workshop**: An interactive session that briefly introduces a professional development activity implemented in your writing center and which invites participation from the audience.
- **Roundtable Discussion:** A collaborative conversation in which attendees are led by a moderator guiding the discussion through specific questions or prompts.

Proposed Presentation Length

You have the option to prepare a presentation or workshop that runs a total time of 30 minutes, 60 minutes, or 90 minutes. When you submit your presentation plan via the [Google Form submission link](.), you will need to let us know your anticipated presentation length. Please make sure you account for Q&A time!

Plan Scoring Rubric

Symposium plans will be scored using the following rubric:

- **Is the focus of the plan clear? (scale of 1-4)**
    - 1 = unclear topic; replicates previous contributions
    - 4 = clear topic; proposes new idea; draws new connections or conclusions
- **Does this plan contribute to varied perspectives and interpretations of the symposium theme and writing center work? (scale of 1-4)**
    - 1 = irrelevant to writing centers; irrelevant to the symposium theme
    - 4 = exceptionally meaningful to writing centers; compellingly responds to symposium theme
- **Does the proposed session provide an opportunity for active participation of attendees?**
    - Yes _____
    - Somewhat _____
    - No _____
- **Would you recommend we accept the plan?**
    - Yes
    - No

Accessibility

The OWCA requires presenters and facilitators to share accessible materials for their session prior to the symposium date. These materials are necessary to fulfill OWCA's commitment to accessible, equitable, and inclusive interaction. The OWCA reserves the right to edit presentation materials for digital accessibility.

Facilitators will need to share the following materials by May 09, 2025:
- **Detailed outline:** Facilitators should prepare a detailed outline that includes any scripted portions of the session, outlines the major topics and the order of activities, and includes directions for any activity and/or the specific discussion questions being put forward.
- **Slide decks [if applicable]:** Facilitators who are using slide decks must provide the slides as a PowerPoint (PPT) file to the OWCA to be available to attendees.
- **Handouts [if applicable]:** Facilitators who plan to distribute handouts must provide these files as Microsoft Word documents to the OWCA. We recommend a handout if you plan to utilize Zoom breakout rooms to support smaller group conversations.

In order to support presenters and facilitators in developing accessible materials, the OWCA will provide the following:
- Training materials, guides, and support to help presenters develop accessible presentation materials. Please visit OWCA's Accessibility Resources page.
- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in all sessions.
- Recordings of all sessions and their ASL interpretation
- Edited closed captions for all synchronous video recordings.

If you plan to present or attend and we have not appropriately planned for your accessibility needs, please email the OWCA Accessibility Committee at access@onlinewritingcenters.org.