Writing Resources on the Internet

Online Resources from Higher Education Institutions and Professional Organizations

Saint Joseph College’s Center for Academic Excellence (CAE’s)— CAE’s online handouts on writing cover:

- Composition and Writing Skills
- Writing in the Disciplines
- Documentation Styles
- Research Tips

Purdue University’s OnLine Writing Handouts—To access many useful handouts about writing, click on the Purdue site and browse through to find what you need. Handouts cover a range of topics from how to document using different styles, to revising and editing tips, to usage rules. Just about any handout you want on writing is at this site.

Most Popular Resources

- MLA Formatting and Style Guide
- APA Formatting and Style Guide
- MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide
- Avoiding Plagiarism
- Writing the Basic Business Letter
- Developing a Resume

MIT OnLine Writing Handouts—Massachusetts Institute of Technology's writing site works much like the Purdue one, offering handouts on a number of topics related to writing papers. The table of contents contains links to other useful sites for writers, speakers, and teachers.

WAC Clearinghouse—Colorado State University offers a comprehensive site of writing-across-the-curriculum resources for teachers. Articles from the Clearinghouse’s online journal Across the Disciplines. Access the article “Online Tutoring: A Symbiotic Relationship with Writing Across the Curriculum Initiatives” to read about Saint Joseph College’s online tutorial and
writing associates program.

Council of Writing Program Administrators’ Statement on Plagiarism—This resource offers helpful tips to faculty about designing assignments that don’t invite plagiarism and tips to student for how to avoid plagiarizing.

Council of Writing Program Administrators’ Gallery of Best Assessment Practice—Samples of model assessment programs are described, including the Saint Joseph College Writing Portfolio program.

Darmouth College Writing Program “Materials for Students”—provides a wealth of material to help students with addressing academic writing assignments for college. Includes resources for writing in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, as well for the professional setting and for graduate school admissions essays. Tips for organizing papers and stylistic feature for writing in the varied disciplines are offered.

Writing Resources for Students—This gateway page provided by the Oakland University’s Library will enable you to access links to find general writing guides, resources on evaluating sources, grammar and usage guides, and information on citing sources in styles as varied as Turabian and the Council of Science Editors (CSE). Links for MLA, APA, and Chicago styles are included. There is also a link to access information on how to write an annotated bibliography as well.

Online Handouts, Dictionaries, Thesauri, Documentation Styles, and Similar Resources

Diane Hacker’s Research and Documentation Online—A well-known site for guidelines in documenting sources in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and history. Includes sample papers written in the varied disciplines, illustrating the implementation of the MLA, APA, and Chicago documentation styles in actual papers. A must-go-to-site for college students!

The Writer’s Block—A gateway site with a list of links to a variety of online resources, including grammar guides, citation guides, newspapers, dictionaries, thesauri, and much more. Don’t let the name confuse you: The site will help you move beyond writer’s block to a wealth of online resources.

Frequently Asked Questions About the APA Style—The APA organization itself answers questions about its style guide.
One Look dictionaries—2,866,454 words in 576 dictionaries are at your fingertips merely by typing in the word you need to know. This site is not only handy when you aren’t close to a dictionary, but it is especially effective when you encounter terms in courses that are specialized to the discipline you are studying.

Merriam-Webster—The dictionary publisher makes available online both its dictionary and thesaurus. According to the New York Times, the site gets 50,000 hits an hour at peak times of the day.

The Elements of Style by Strunk and White—When writers need a good “talking to” about ways to improve their writing, they read this classic, small book of writing do’s and don’t’s. Now you can read it online or consult it to check rules of usage, principles of composition, issues of style and form, and to study words and expressions that are commonly misused. Make definite assertions. Avoid the tame, colorless, hesitating, non-committal language. William Struck, Jr.

Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations—If you’re looking for a quotation to add zest to your writing or trying to check the source of a quotation you know, check this site. I have gathered a posie of other men’s flowers, and nothing but the thread that binds them is mine own. John Bartlett

Paradigm Interactive Online Writing Coaching—Although there is no substitute for working with a teacher, for those times when you want help online, try this tool. The site walks you through each step in the writing process with advice and helpful prompts provided.

Evaluating Information Found on the Internet—Offers criteria scholars use to evaluate and assess information found on the Internet.

Writing Guides—This site works like an online textbook and covers everything from learning writing processes to advanced researching. http://writing.colostate.edu/guides

Roget’s Thesaurus—This is a quick and easy way to generate synonyms when you are working online.