## **Basics of Writing Center Theory**

## **BASIC TENETS OF WRITING TUTORING:**

Tutoring is **contextual**.

Tutoring is collaborative.

Tutoring is interpersonal.

Tutoring is individualized.

## **PRACTICAL GUIDELINES:**

For a deeper understanding of these principles, the **International Writing Center Association** offers the following guidelines (Harris):

- "Tutorials are offered in a one-to-one setting." Our own model is based on focused peer collaboration. Whether tutors work with students in the library or in the DEWC itself, the goal is for tutors & writers to engage in a conversation about the text.
- "Tutors are coaches and collaborators, not teachers." Your goal is not to evaluate or lecture, but rather to facilitate conversation, to offer productive feedback, and to listen.
- "Each student's individual needs are the focus of the tutorial." Affirming studentcenteredness and attentiveness is a primary concern as we go about our work in the center each day.
- "Experimentation and practice are encouraged." Writing centers are informal, experimental, and active; development happens in a variety of forms for both students from consultants
- "Writers work on writing from a variety of courses [and disciplines]." We should each be mindful of our own disciplinary biases and make ourselves available to all students across the university.
- "Writing consultations are available for students at all levels of writing proficiency." We serve all student writers and we work to provide support for a range of needs.

## **SOURCES**

Harris, Muriel. "Writing Center Concept." *International Writing Centers Association*. International Writing Centers Association, 2006. Web. 28 Aug. 2013.

Murphy, Christine, and Steve Sherwood, eds. *The St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. Print.