

Here are a few tips we hope will be helpful as you prepare your first papers!

- Paraphrasing an assignment or making a bullet list of its requirements is a good way to **make sure you understand what a professor expects of you**. You'll probably receive a wider variety of writing assignments at Southwestern than you're used to, and some may be unfamiliar. If you have questions about what an assignment requires, **don't be shy about asking** classmates, your professor, or your local friendly DEWC consultant.
- Try to **visit your professors** during office hours as soon as you can. Stop by with questions or comments when you have some extra time. Most **professors love to talk with students** about their work, and visiting early allows you to establish a relationship while the stakes are low. Then, if you have a serious question or get stuck, you won't be nervous about making an appointment.
- **Give yourself enough time** to complete your assignment. As you're adjusting to a new set of scholarly expectations it can be difficult to know in advance how long it will take to do a good job on your writing assignment. **Go ahead and start early**. That way, if you have questions you'll have time to get them answered.
- If you (like many of us) can have trouble focusing at times, **find a spot where you can hide** from distractions like roommates and the internet, and work. Have you found the amazing lounges in the library yet? And **you're always welcome in the DEWC** if you'd like to work in here!
- **Trade papers with classmates**. This one can be tricky because you need to make sure you're avoiding collusion & honor code violations, but **if your professor says it's OK**, it can be really helpful to see where and how other students are approaching writing at Southwestern.
- **Take advantage of resources** Southwestern provides. If you have a question about research, or what constitutes a scholarly source, **you can ask a librarian** (in person or online). If you're an English language learner, **you can check in with ELL Resource Specialist Dr. Jessica Zbeida** (in the DEWC or during her office hours).
- **Remember** that you're up to the task! Regardless of the assignment, some of the key writing skills you used writing the essay that helped get you in to Southwestern – your ability to stick to the prompt and organize your ideas around that prompt, to provide a clear thesis and support it with examples, to prewrite, brainstorm, and outline, and revise, revise, revise – are the same ones you'll continue to use now that you're here. You may feel intimidated by some of your early assignments; don't forget that **you can handle this!**
- And, of course, **come see us** at any stage of the writing process!

DEWC HOURS (FALL 2013)

Sunday	6-9 p.m.
Monday	3-9 p.m.
Tuesday	3-9 p.m.
Wednesday	3-9 p.m.
Thursday	12-5 p.m.

**OFFICE & DEWC HOURS FOR DR. JESSICA ZBEIDA,
ELL RESOURCE SPECIALIST (FALL 2013)**

Sunday	6-9 p.m. (in the DEWC)
Monday	12-2 p.m. (in the DEWC)
Tuesday	1-2 p.m. (Office Hours – in Mood 237) & 2-4 p.m. (in the DEWC)
Wednesday	12-2 p.m. (in the DEWC)
Thursday	1-2 p.m. (Office Hours – in Mood 237) & 2-4 p.m. (in the DEWC)

Here are a few helpful websites with tips about transitioning to college writing:

http://writing-program.uchicago.edu/resources/collegewriting/high_school_v_college.htm

<http://writepraxis.wordpress.com/2012/10/29/new-challenges-in-a-brave-new-world-college-writing/>

And here are a few sites with helpful writing resources:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

<http://writing.colostate.edu/learn.cfm>

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/>