

Tutoring Writing in the Disciplines: Earth and Environmental Sciences

By Juliette Bateman, Matthew Elliott, and Sydney Neugebauer

Introduction

- ★ What is TWID?
 - Using Earth and Environment specific writing practices, genres, and conventions in order to best support the works of E&E students
- ★ Tutoring ranged from undergraduate 200 level courses, such as geography, to graduate 500 level courses including forest ecology and aquatic optics

Goals of TWID

- ★ Provide discipline specific support for students in upper level classes

Goals for Tutors

- ★ Launch Earth and Environment writing tutor program
- ★ Introduce professors to TWID
- ★ Train first class of writing tutors
- ★ Encourage attendance at tutoring sessions
- ★ Increase department-wide confidence and competence in writing

Observations & Results

- ★ Students from many different courses from level 200-500
- ★ 64 hours of tutoring
- ★ Average session rating: Excellent
- ★ “[The tutor] really helped me in the areas that I needed it most”
- ★ Materials generated in the course:
 - BEAT/BEAM presentation
 - Promotional flier
 - Reading scientific papers handout
 - Interview with professionals
 - Observation of other tutors

Methodology

- ★ Spread awareness through in-class visits and fliers distributed to E&E community
- ★ In-class discussions:
 - Tutoring ESL students
 - Citation methods
 - Disciplinary tutoring vs. general writing
 - Finding and evaluating sources
- ★ Generate supplementary materials
 - Reading and Writing for research
 - Promotional fliers

Go-To Tips for Reading and Writing for Your Next Research Project

Finding papers is often difficult. Follow the steps below for source gathering:

1. Use Google Scholar or Mugar website
 - a. Having a search engine that only gives result that are journals or peer reviewed saves time and makes sure you are using reliable sources.
 - b. Use keywords based on your topics by entering them in the search bar
- Once you've located papers that are relevant to your research topic and general ideas and you have a goal in mind, follow the steps below:

1. Refer to Table 6.1 (Abrams) below for the best plan of attack for finding useful information. This table is extremely useful for pinpointing the relevant topics for various goals.

Goal	Primarily-relevant sections
Learning new method / approach	Methods, Introduction
Understanding limitations of a method	Conclusion, Discussion
Significance of a research area	Introduction, Conclusion
Looking up data / values	Results, Figures
Broad interest in the field	Abstract, Conclusion

2. Make sure you pay attention to cited sources within the sections you've chosen to focus on. Often times they can provide additional useful information that you can use in your paper.
3. Make sure you're actively annotating each of your sources. This will help you stay organized regarding the key topics of each paper. Down the road, you'll be very grateful for your annotations!

EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT WRITING TUTORS

Trouble with an E&E Writing Assignment?

Earth and Environment writing tutors are here to help!

Contact us for help with:
Essay organization
Understanding writing prompts
Grammar and sentence structure
Citations
And more!

Tutoring will be held on the first floor of CAS, Room 130F.

Visit <https://twwriting.myonline.com> for information about scheduling and tutor availability.

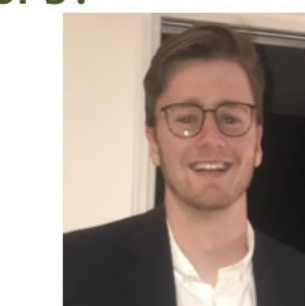
Meet our writing tutors!



Juliette Bateman
Juliette is a junior in the BA/MA program in E&E studying Earth and Environmental Science and Remote Sensing and Geospatial Sciences. She is interested in applications of remote sensing, GIS, and statistical modeling in coastal environments. She has experience writing for assignments of all types, and loves the environment (duh), running, and yoga!



Sydney Neugebauer
Sydney is a senior in the department of Earth and Environment completing a dual degree in Environmental Earth Science and Music. She has experience writing about remote sensing, GIS, atmospheric sciences, coastal ecosystems, climate issues, and natural disasters in both research and persuasive settings.



Matthew Elliott
Matthew is a junior majoring in Environmental Analysis and Policy in the department of Earth and Environment where he also does research as a cosmogenic mineral analyst. Matthew has experience writing policy for state legislature as well as research reports. When Matthew isn't in the writing office, you can probably find him eating food in Mugar or taking long walks on the esplanade.

Summary & Conclusions

In our eyes, this semester was a success! Discipline specific tutoring allowed for less time spent understanding the concepts in a paper and more time focused on improving the writing of the student.

Looking forward, the program can improve by coordinating with classes to hold tutoring during times writing assignments are predominantly assigned. The skills we learned throughout this process have helped us grow as teachers, writers, and leaders.

We'd like to give a *huge* THANK YOU to David Shawn for making all this happen, and Matt DiCintio for organizational support!