

Spanish Speaking, Writing, and Conversation Center (SSWCC)

Mission Statement

Speaking

For any oral presentation, we can help you understand the assignment, prepare presentations for a specific audience, show you what a good PPT presentation looks like, and brainstorm ideas for your speech. We can be your first audience, helping you to practice before you deliver your speech, oral assignment, or exam. We'll give you feedback on the overall persuasiveness and clarity of your ideas, as well as your pronunciation. We will also help you build your confidence so that you can speak directly to your audience, rather than read from your notes or PowerPoint slides. If you do not participate in class because you are nervous or unsure of what to say, we can help you.

Writing

Writing is about more than good grammar and well-constructed sentences (although those elements certainly contribute to the quality of a paper). Good writing says something interesting, flows logically, and communicates clearly. When you're writing a paper for a class, you should make sure you understand **what kind of writing** you're being asked to do. Are you expected to write a summary, a literary analysis, a personal narrative, or a persuasive paper? In addition, you'll also want to make sure you're meeting the **assignment requirements**. Do you need to cite your sources, provide examples from your personal experience, or both? Should you compare one text to another?

Here at the Spanish Speaking, Writing, and Conversation Center we'll help you understand the assignment and figure out what constitutes good writing in Spanish for that assignment. A significant part of our time will be spent brainstorming ideas for your paper, helping you generate an outline, guiding you to organize your information, looking for places where you need to expand or cut down, showing you how to use dictionary resources effectively so that you avoid direct translations from English to Spanish. Most important, we will give you tools to use in future papers. If you make consistent grammatical errors, we will help you identify and correct those errors on your own.

Conversation

If what you want is practicing your Spanish in a relaxed environment, meeting one of our tutors is the best option to have a one-on-one exchange that can help you build your language and cultural fluency. If you are studying abroad next semester, going to a Spanish-speaking country for an internship, or want to engage with the local Hispanic community, this can be the perfect opportunity to improve your Spanish!

Reading

We understand that reading comprehension is the foundation for producing written and spoken words in any language. At the Spanish Speaking, Writing, and Conversation Center we can also help you with your Spanish course readings. We can suggest reading strategies and help you understand and interpret difficult texts or passages. We will work together to enable you to make better contributions to class discussions about readings, and in general to speak and write more confidently about your readings, whether they are news stories, essays, plays, poems, fictional stories, autobiographical stories, or novels.

FAQs

Will you edit / proofread the complete draft of my paper?

No, sorry. Our job is to help you become a better writer. Editing or fixing things **for you** won't get you there. However, we will point out grammatical errors and problems with sentence structure and word choice, and we're happy to explain why they are wrong and how to correct them. Our ultimate goal is to help you learn to spot and fix these kinds of mistakes yourself. We'll also connect you to good online resources to go to with grammar questions.

We will not write parts of your paper; if we were to supply significant amounts of language for you, that would amount to plagiarism, which is unethical and violates university, college, and Spanish Department policies.

What language will we speak during tutoring sessions?

Mostly Spanish, though we will use English at times if it helps with explanations, depending on the student's individual needs, as well as the assignment.

Who can use this center?

Any student enrolled in SPAN:1502 and above can use our services.

How much does it cost?

Our services are **FREE** of cost and available to all students enrolled in SPAN:1502 and above.

How do I make an appointment?

Go to <http://writingcenter.uiowa.edu>, Click on "make an Appointment" and then the link to register for a free account. **Then check your UI email for a link to activate the account.** Once you're logged in **to the online schedule**, select "Spanish Center" from the drop-down menu. Look for **an available appointment (a white box) and click it** to reserve a **30-minute** appointment.

Can I receive extra credit in my classes for using the SSWCC?

We want students to come to the SSWCC because they are self-motivated to learn more about Spanish writing, speaking, and reading. Assigning extra credit will be at the discretion of each instructor, and there are many different possibilities that instructors can implement in their courses. Your instructor may have explained an extra credit policy in class, or such a policy may be on your syllabus. If you need proof that you came to the SSWCC to give to your instructor, we will provide it.

Further questions?

Go to <http://writingcenter.uiowa.edu> or

Email writing-center@uiowa.edu