

## About the SSI Writing Liaison Program

### What is the writing liaison program?

The liaison program pairs writing advisors with first-year seminars, to

- Introduce students early in their careers to the resources available in the Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching (CWLT)
- Give faculty an additional resource when teaching first-year seminars
- Provide support for new students to become better college writers
- Promote collaborative learning through peer-revision with experienced writing advisors

### How to use writing liaisons in your seminar

- Have your liaison read your essay prompts before you hand them out to students, and consider asking for questions and feedback. Writing liaisons are students, themselves, and can offer constructive feedback on assignments from a student perspective.
- Bring your class to the CWLT at some point for a class session.
- Ask your liaison to lead an in-class workshop for all or part of a class on one of the following topics (for which we have standardized lesson plans that can be tailored somewhat to fit with your course content):
  - Peer Review
  - Incorporating Evidence
  - Writing Effective Introductions and Conclusions
  - Developing Effective Thesis Statements
  - Topic Sentences and Transitions
  - Proofreading
  - Writing with Awareness
  - How to use the Puget Sound writing handbook (*Sound Writing*)
- Consider asking your students to come see your liaison individually for a 15-minute appointment on some targeted issue.
- Have your liaison facilitate a workshop outside of class, using these tips:
  - Communicate with the liaison and with your students about what will happen, so that they can plan accordingly.
  - Be sure to schedule the workshop at the most convenient time for your students, to ensure higher attendance.
  - Give students an incentive to attend—you'd be surprised how many students will come out for a slice of pizza!

### Suggestions for working with writing liaisons

- Meet with your liaison during the first week of classes to map out a plan for working together over the semester.
- Send your syllabus/assignments to your liaison and add your liaison to your Moodle site.
- Give your liaison as much lead time as possible to prepare for sessions.
- As a general rule, please do not ask your liaison to teach a class when you are at a conference or are planning not to attend the class session.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate! The more clearly you and your liaison communicate with each other about expectations, the more useful the relationship will be to you, your students, and the liaison.

### Tips on introducing your liaison to your class

- Include your liaison's CWLT contact information on your syllabus: (i.e., the liaison's name and a link to the Writing Advisor info page with photos, bios, and schedules: [pugetsound.edu/cwltwriters](http://pugetsound.edu/cwltwriters))
- Invite the liaison to come visit your class to say hello around when you assign the first paper.