Application to Become a Writing Center Tutor

Application Procedure

1. Read Qualifications and Requirements to ensure that you meet the basic qualifications and that you can agree to the expectations of the position.

2. Read and consider the Writing Center Mission Statement.

3. Complete Applicant Information—basic information, references, unofficial transcript, & academic writing sample.

4. Complete Short Response Question.

5. Read, reflect on, and compose a 2-page Response to the Following Attached Sample Student Essay; see details #5 below.

6. Hand-deliver your completed application packet ASAP to Writing Center secretary Barbara Walling, LN 2412.

7. Email acknowledgement will be sent when your complete application has been reviewed: a brief interview may be requested.

#1—Qualifications and Requirements

Basic Qualifications: To be eligible for tutoring in the Writing Center applicants must have completed at least the second semester of their sophomore year and have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA. All academic majors are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be strong writers with a strong knowledge of and interest in writing strategies and conventions. Applicants should enjoy working with all different kinds of people, have a good sense of humor, and be friendly, flexible, and reliable. Finally, beyond minimal key schedules, applicants must be willing to work mornings and/or afternoons and any weekday as necessary to serve the Writing Center mission.

Requirements: Tutors are enrolled by Barb Walling for up to 4 credit hours in WRIT 491: Practicum in College Teaching, a two-part pass-fail independent study course. They may participate in the practicum for two semesters. Upon successful completion of two semesters tutors may request a graduate school/employment recommendation attesting to their facility teaching in a multicultural context.

Part I of the WRIT 491 practicum entails participating in a once-weekly 90-minute course in theory and praxis of Writing Center pedagogy. The day and time of the course will be decided by the particular cohort of tutors each semester. Coursework involves assigned readings, group discussion of the readings and the tutoring experience, and a daily reflective teaching journal.

Part II of the WRIT 491 practicum entails completing 6-8 hours of tutoring in the Writing Center each week. The actual number of hours will depend upon a range of variables. Tutors will be given a schedule of their assigned hours after the first week of classes.

Timeliness: Tutors must arrive 5 minutes before the shift starts and stay completely through the assigned hours, regardless of whether or not they are working with clients. Notice for planned absences should be given in a timely fashion. Tutors must notify the Writing Center ASAP in case of emergency or sudden illness that requires them to miss their appointment hours. Tutors may miss up to four hours over the course of a semester (referred to as flex time); after that, all hours must be made up.

Paperwork & Projects: Tutors must learn and use the Writing Center’s system for making new student appointments, for tracking data via the individual student tutoring record cards, and for other tutoring forms. When not tutoring, tutors should expect to work on Writing Center projects, such as handouts, presentations or other media informationals according to interest and skills.

Professionalism: Tutoring at the BU Writing Center is a professional work experience, and tutors are expected to engage with their clients and environment in a professional fashion at all times. Tutors are expected to uphold the Writing Center’s mission of helping BU students to become stronger writers. Tutors are required to maintain client confidentiality at all times in all circumstances. Tutors must avoid all possible conflicts of interest by not seeing clients over whom they have authority in another role, such as an RA or TA role, during their tutoring hours. While tutoring is fun, exciting, challenging, and interesting—and everyone has a great time—professional conduct is expected at all times. Tutors are ambassadors for the Writing Center.
#2—Writing Center Mission Statement

The Writing Center provides high-quality, practical individual assistance with writing assignments of all sorts. The fundamental mission of the Center is to help BU students become better writers; thus we tutor, coach, teach, and encourage our clients—but we do not fix a client's paper for her or him. The Center is open to all BU students—freshmen to graduate students, native speakers of English and ESL speakers, basic to advanced writers. The tutors are excellent writers recruited from many disciplines who receive ongoing education in one-to-one tutoring in an inclusive environment. Tutors may coach their clients through any or all stages of writing a paper—understanding the assignment, handling library research, finding a topic and developing a thesis, drafting and revising, citing sources, and final revision. Tutors may also assist with critical reading of complex texts, and they may be called upon to offer insight into American cultural expectations and success at BU, or to help with project planning and time management. The fundamental mission of the center is to help BU students to become better writers—whatever it takes.

#3—Applicant Information

Basic Information:

Name_________________________________ B#____________________________________

Phone_________________________________ Email_________________________________

Year________________________________ Major:____________________________________

Current GPA__________ GPA in major__________ Total Credits Earned____________

References:
Names, email addresses, and departments of two instructors who are familiar with your writing and willing to recommend you.

1. __________________________________________  ________________________  __________
   Name Department Email

1. __________________________________________  ________________________  __________
   Name Department Email

Unofficial Transcripts:
Include a copy of your recent unofficial university transcript.

Academic Writing Sample:
Include an academic writing sample, such as a researched argument or research paper that you wrote for a class.

#4—Short Response Question

As a tutor, you will often rely upon your own personal writing process to guide your advice for clients you aim to help. In a brief statement (maximum one typed, double-spaced page), describe your unique writing process and how it might influence your tutoring methods.

#5—Response to the Following Attached Sample Student Essay

Read, reflect and respond (maximum two typed, double-spaced pages). Write your thoughts and constructive criticisms about the essay, focusing on the suggestions you would make to coach the student toward improving the essay. Prioritize higher order concerns (content, organization, and structure) over lower order concerns (mechanics, punctuation, and spelling).
Should we do cloning?

From People’s Daily, “Chang’e-1, […] which is meaning a legendary Chinese goddess who flew to the moon, blasted off on a carrier rocket at 6:05 p.m. on 10/24/2007 in southwestern Sichuan Province in China.” (Xinhua) Before that only, America, Russia, The European Union, and Japan had launched lunar probes.

It is very sorry to say that, the reason for the race between countries in landing the moon is actually; our Earth is over its maximum carrying capacity. In fact, cloning can rescue us by reducing the rate of diminishing of natural resources and even providing us a better planet with abundant and good quality of resources.

The Crisis of cloning had exploded in 1996 since the birth of “Dolly” the cloned sheep, born in England. Until now, cloning has been applied on several animal species, such as monkeys, guinea pigs and cattle etc. In truth, I would like to say that continuing to develop the cloning technology on both human beings and animals is the right track.

First of all, the reason we should do cloning is because the Cloning technology is really useful to human. Nowadays, due to population explosion, there are many novel diseases which cannot be defeated, such as most types of cancer, neck cartilage damage and several heart diseases. Through Cloning technology, it leads to regenerative medicine which is a treatment inserting the new and generative cells to the sick organ and restoring its functional parts. Finally, the infected organs will become renewed. With the cloning technology, there are experiments and data supporting that we can easily be alive to the “upper limit of human lifespan, 120 years old” (Rubin)

Stephen Hawking, a great physicist in this century, he got Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) which is a “progressive, fatal, neurodegenerative disease” (Wikipedia.com). Having ALS, some of the nerve cells in his central nerve system had been degenerated and not working since his college years. It is believed that once if he is treated by regenerative medicine, those defective cells will be removed and replaced, instead of, the new generative cells will be able to grow and reborn the original function. And he should be cured through one of the medical applications with the cloning technology.

Secondly, cloning can help raising food yield, especially for crops, which can solve the problem of extreme hunger. Today, extreme hunger is another severe problem under population explosion occurring in some the developing countries such as Yemen, Somalia, and Bangladesh. Consistent with The National Academy of Sciences, “Cloned plants are exploited in order to increase food production. For examples, the modified corn and tomatoes, they had been the ingredients on different food, such as, cereal, soymilks and ketchups.” (Safety of Genetically Engineered Foods)

Other than crops cloning, cloning animals can be a source for massive meat production, such as cattle, pigs and mutton can be the food we can apply the cloning technology on. On 04/12/2005, some research has claimed that “meat and milk product from those cloned cows in U.S. have passed all of the health and safety tests.” (Dixon) Therefore, it is absolutely safe to eat cloned food indeed.

However, the failure rate of cloning cows is extremely high currently, only “approximately 1% to 3% of them can be cloned successfully.” (Philipkoski) It may be even lower in cloning another animal species. Although the cost in using cloning technology is much heavier than the traditional way now, it is the

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The reason why we should do more research on it in order to elevate the success rate in the near future. Once the technology becomes mature, the cost must be reduced and that should be reasonable to spread broadly on different animal species. All in all, cloning will help those developing countries by increasing food yield.

The more people living in the Earth and the longer lifespan we have, thus the more natural resources we have to consume. Relatively, without a doubt, animals will not be able to survive easily anymore due to the keen competition in consuming natural resources, and we generally called that, “Mass Extinction.” (Warrick) It is a tragedy to our gorgeous biodiversity.

Again, cloning can be the solution of Mass Extinction. According to The Independent (London), “In the last 500 years, human activity has forced 844 species to extinction. And 15,589 species are known to be threatened with extinction in this moment.” (Connor) However, once if we apply cloning technology to the expected endangered species, it would help recovering and increasing their fitness in order to adapt the resources-competitive world. Therefore, cloning can re-structure our biodiversity in reducing the rate of extinction for those endangered species.

On the other hand, people always oppose on cloning, especially human cloning. Mainly it is because the ethical problem of the existence of human clones. What roles will the clones play in our society? And how should we treat our clones? We actually really do not have to worry about. The main theme of cloning is not simply copy and paste a life only. The most important point is the way in using cloning technology. Due to the population explosion, it is no use to have a human clone because there are actually insufficient natural resources to support their survival.

Overall, what we should pay attention to is the further development of cloning technology towards different aspects, such as medicine, food production and survival of endangered animal species etc, in order to improve our life quality. In the same time, facing the population explosion, besides exploring the moon, cloning is the way out, or maybe even the only key.

Work Cited


Work Referenced


#6—Hand-deliver completed application packet ASAP to Barb Walling, LN 2412, in the BU Writing Center, Monday through Friday, 9-4.