

Writing Tutor Application

Application Procedure

1. Read Qualifications and Requirements to ensure that you are eligible to tutor.
2. Read and consider the Student Writing Center Mission Statement.
3. Complete Applicant Information, basic information, references, transcript, and academic writing sample.
4. Complete Short Response Question.
5. Read, reflect on, and compose a two-page Response to Sample Student Essay.
6. Hand-deliver your completed application packet ASAP to Student Writing Center secretary Barb ~~A~~, LN241F.
7. You'll receive acknowledgment by email when your completed application has been reviewed.
8. Arrange and complete a brief interview with Wendy Stewart, Interim Director of the Writing Center.

Qualifications and Requirements

Basic Qualifications: By the time they begin tutoring, applicants must have completed at least the second semester of their sophomore year with a GPA of 3.0. All academic majors are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be strong writers with knowledge of and interest in writing strategies and conventions; should enjoy working with all different kinds of people; have a good sense of humor; be friendly, flexible, and professional; be willing to accept direction; and be able to commit to regular weekly tutoring hours.

Requirements: *Tutors are enrolled their first semester for 4 credit hours in WRIT491 Practicum in College Teaching, a multi-semester pass/fail independent study course.* They may participate in the practicum for up to 4 more credit hours (either in the form of 4 credits a following semester or 2 credits over the following 2 semesters), for a total of 8 credits. Upon successful completion of two semesters, tutors may request a graduate school/employment recommendation attesting to their ability to teach in a multicultural context. The Director withholds the right to refuse a recommendation for tutors who fail to fulfill professional obligations related to tutoring (showing up to sessions on time, attending class regularly, communicating issues regarding the schedule or class in advance, etc.).

Part 1 of the WRIT 491 practicum entails participating in a weekly 90-minute course in theory and practice of Writing Center Pedagogy. The day and time of the course will be determined by the academic schedules of the particular cohort of tutors each semester. (It is usually Tuesday evening from 6-7:30pm). Course work involves leading discussion of one assigned reading or group of readings, participating in discussion of the readings

and tutoring experience, participating in online writing sites, such as MyCourses, and writing a tutoring philosophy.

Part 2 of the WRIT 491 practicum entails completing a set of 45-minute tutoring shifts of tutoring in the Student Writing Center each week (e.g., four 45-minute shifts for returning tutors only enrolled for 2 credits). Tutors will receive a tutoring schedule some time during week one or week two of the semester, after academic schedules are set.

Timeliness: Tutors must arrive 5 minutes before the shift and stay through their shift, in order to accommodate drop-in tutees. Notice for planned absences should be given ASAP. When tutors can give the Director early notice for planned absences, it is easy to alter the schedule to fit their needs. All missed time must be made up at a later date.

Record-keeping and Non-tutoring Duties: Tutors must learn and use the Student Writing Center's system for managing student appointments, tracking data, and keeping records. When not tutoring, tutors should expect to familiarize themselves with the resources available in the Student Writing Center and to work on Student Writing Center projects, such as handouts or presentations.

Professionalism: Most tutors find tutoring at the BU Student Writing Center fun, exciting, interesting, and challenging. However, it is a professional work experience. Tutors are ambassadors for the Student Writing Center and required to observe professional conduct with their tutees, other students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Tutors agree to uphold the Writing Center's mission of helping BU students become stronger writers and are required to maintain client confidentiality at all times, in all circumstances, whether on or off duty. Tutors must avoid all possible conflicts of interest by not tutoring writers over whom they have authority in another capacity, for example as an RA or TA.

Student Writing Center Mission Statement: The Student 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; this means we tutor, coach, teach, and encourage our writers, but we do not "fix" a writer's paper for her or him. The Center is open to all BU 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 writers through any or all stages of writing a paper: understanding the assignment, finding a topic and developing a thesis, undertaking library research, drafting and revising, citing sources, and final revision. Tutors may be called on to offer insights into American cultural expectations and success at BU or help with project planning and time management.

1. Applicant Information:

Name:	B #:
Phone:	Email:
Year:	Major:
Current GPA:	GPA in Major:
Total Credits Earned:	Writing Strengths:

2. References: Include information for two instructors who are familiar with your writing and willing to recommend you. Please ask the instructor's permission before listing them.

Name:	Dept:	Email:
Name:	Dept:	Email:

3. Unofficial Transcript: Include a copy of your current unofficial university transcripts.

4. Academic Writing Sample: Include a recent academic writing sample that you are proud of. This could be a complete paper or a selection from a larger paper. Try to limit it to no more than 10 pages.

5. Short Response Question: As a tutor, you will often draw upon your own personal writing process to advise the writers you work with. In a brief statement (1 page, double-spaced), describe your writing process and how it might or might not influence your tutoring methods.

6. Response to Sample Student Essay: Read, reflect on, and respond to the student essay that follows this page (in no more than 2 pages, double-spaced). 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).

Hand-deliver Completed Application Packet ASAP to Barb Zwick, LN2411.

You Will Receive Acknowledgement of your Application within Two Working Days.

You may contact Wendy Stewart (wstewart@binghamton.edu) with any questions.

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 6:05p.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 AL, 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 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.

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