

Online Writing Support at the UVa Writing Center

The Writing Center offers a full schedule of **Online Consultations** that allow real-time conversation with a Writing Consultant using audio, video, chat, and/or document-sharing. We also offer a limited number of **eTutoring** appointments—an asynchronous option. The resource is available for use by all current UVa students, regardless of year, school, or major. **We open on 8/31/2020.**

What Kind of Support Can the Writing Center Provide?

- We can advise on all stages of the writing process: brainstorming, drafting, revision, argument structure, editing, and other concerns.
- We can help with any kind of writing: essays for classes, conference papers, dissertations/theses, cover letters for applications, personal statements, resumes, etc.
- We cannot proofread or edit for students. We also cannot help students with take-home exams unless the instructor has given explicit permission to use the Writing Center.

What is an Online Consultation?

In an Online Consultation, the consultant and the student meet in real-time (synchronously) using video, audio, chat, and document-sharing features built into [our online platform](#). Students can choose one 25-minute appointment or two back-to-back 25-minute appointments.

What is eTutoring?

eTutoring is an asynchronous option in which you submit your writing along with a list of your concerns, and within 48 hours you receive written feedback from a consultant. eTutoring works best if you have a full or partial draft and can articulate a detailed set of questions about it. eTutoring is also good if you do not have reliable Internet service or do not have time to devote to an online consultation.

eTutoring is not the best option if you are struggling to begin a writing project and need help brainstorming ideas or understanding a writing prompt; you would benefit more from a real-time conversation with a tutor.

How Do I Schedule an Online Consultation or eTutoring?

You will need an account in our system: <https://virginia.mywconline.com>. Then you can log in, choose the appropriate schedule (“Online Consultations Fall 2020” or “eTutoring Fall 2020”), and then an appointment.

How Do I Connect with my Online Consultant?

You will need a device that can connect to the Internet (computer, laptop, notepad) and a reliable high-speed Internet connection. When it is time for your appointment, you will log in to <https://virginia.mywconline.com>, double-click on your appointment, and click “Start or Join Online Consultation.” A screen will pop up that provides further instructions, and your tutor will be waiting to chat with you.

What Happens in an Online Consultation?

The online system allows you and the consultant to use video, audio, and text chat to talk about your work; you can upload your draft to a whiteboard that each of you can view, add to, write on, edit, and revise. Together you will read through your writing and discuss ways to develop your ideas and strengthen your work. When the session ends, any chat transcript and whiteboard text will be saved, and you will be able to return to the appointment to view those documents later.

What If We Have Technical Problems?

In case of glitches within the system, the consultant and the student can quickly agree on an alternative way to “meet” online: Google Hangouts, FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, phone, etc.

Questions? Contact Claire Chantell at cc2de@virginia.edu.