



Top 10 Ways to Improve Your Writing

Professor Roger Graves
Director, Writing Across the Curriculum
Acting Director, C4W
Professor, English and Film Studies



Number 10

- Give up
- Really, just give up. Banging your head against the wall when there is nothing in it just won't improve the situation.
- But just before you give up, give us a try at the C4W--We're in 1-42 Assiniboia



Number 9

- Speed up.
- OK, you tried giving up, and that didn't work. So try speeding up. Write really fast, as fast as your fingers will type and let Word fix the spelling.
- Note: we'll even take a look at this in the C4W if you want.

Number 8



- Take a break—you've earned it.
- Well, speeding up means now you have a lot of nothing as opposed to just nothing. After all that hard typing, take a break—Family Guy must be on somewhere? Futurama?
- And if your break ends up taking you to the North part of the main quad, feel free to drop in at the C4W

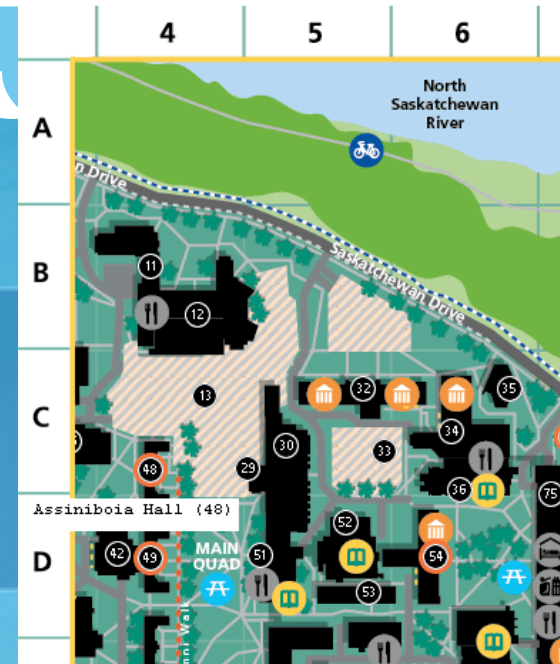
Number 7

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpEoSHyjpcQ>

- o Do some research
- o Now that you're refreshed from your break, check out Wikipedia. Must be something there on your topic. If that fails, how about Youtube? Worst case scenario: you'll be entertained.
- o Can't find anything at either site? Someone at the C4W can probably help you locate resources.

Number 6

- Change your environment.
- You've done some tough research on Wikipedia and YouTube, so move to another room or even building to change up the surroundings and get you focused again.
- Since you're moving around anyway, why not sashay over to 1-42 Assiniboia and set up shop there.



Number 5



- Question yourself.
- Good idea, but it gets tiresome to also have to answer.
- Why not dragoon a C4W tutor to ask the questions, and then you only have to do the answering part?

Number 4

- Read your draft out loud.
- No judgments, but it could look a little strange to have you reading out loud in SUB—or not.
- If it would help, a tutor at the C4W could at least fake listening to you. Or we could really listen—your call.



<http://www.donaldcorrell.com/huck/img/soliloquy.jpg>



Number 3

- Write summaries.
- Sometimes it helps to write summaries of research articles in your own words, or even a summary of your own essay to check to see if says what you want it to say.
- At the C4W, we'd be happy to read these summaries and help you think about how to incorporate them into your draft.



Number 2

- Rewrite with the reader in mind.
- Yeah, I know, sounds like work—but it pays off! A huge problem with student writing is that students often hand in their first draft.
- Don't do that! Come to the C4W, and we'll help you work on a second, third, or n^2 draft

Number 1

- o Come to the C4W!
- o Did I mention we have candy?

