

APSU Writing Center

Strategies for Multilingual Writers

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1. Start Working on Your Written Assignments Early

- Give yourself extra time when working on writing assignments. This allows you to gather resources, use a thesaurus, and organize your ideas effectively.

2. Practice Reading Aloud

- Reading your sentences out loud helps you catch errors, such as missing commas, and become more familiar with the language you are writing in. Additionally, practice reading aloud from books, articles, and signs to improve your language skills.

3. Schedule Appointments with the APSU Writing Center

- Did you know that tutors at the APSU Writing Center can practice conversational English with you? They can also provide resources to help you improve your grammar and sentence structure.

4. Focus on Content and Organization Before Grammar

- First, focus on the purpose of your assignment: is it to inform, persuade, or argue a point? Save grammar and spelling corrections for the revision stage of your writing process.

5. Brainstorm Ideas and Information in Your Own Words

- Start by brainstorming ideas in your own words and reading your notes. This will help you clarify your thoughts and ensure that your writing reflects your understanding.

Strategies for Supporting Multilingual Writers

1. Give Clear, Step-by-Step Instructions

- Provide clear and detailed instructions for assignments and feedback. Avoid idiomatic language that might confuse non-native speakers, and offer step-by-step guidance to help them succeed.

2. Prioritize Content and Ideas

- Help writers clarify their ideas and content rather than focusing solely on small grammar errors. Strong content is the foundation of effective writing.

3. Comment on Common Errors or Patterns

- Instead of correcting every single mistake, identify patterns in errors and provide guidance on how to address them. This encourages self-learning and helps writers improve over time. Provide Writing Center handouts as needed.

4. Use Visual Learning Techniques

- Incorporate visual aids like diagrams, outlines, and examples to support different learning styles. Visuals can help multilingual writers grasp complex concepts more easily.

5. Recognize Cultural Differences in Writing

- Understand that writing processes and approaches may vary across cultures and backgrounds. Be open to diverse methods of organization and argumentation.

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References

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