



CLEMSON® UNIVERSITY

# WRITING LAB ANNUAL REPORT 2022 2023

# OVERVIEW



## WHO WE ARE

The Writing Lab, once called the "writing center," is an instructional service and lab "space" that provides writing support to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. We offer both face-to-face and online consultations, as well as workshops for Clemson writers.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The Writing Lab was established in 1983 as an initiative to support students in ENGL 1030 courses. This first iteration of the Writing Lab was housed in Daniel Hall. As the Writing Lab grew, it began to provide writing feedback to students and staff across campus.

Around 1995, the Writing Lab changed its name to the "Writing Center," reflecting new conventions in writing center studies. The Writing Center moved into the newly-constructed Academic Success Center in 2012, where it remained until August 2022.

Now, the Writing Lab has returned to its original name, and we continue the Writing Lab's legacy of supporting writers in the Clemson Family in our new location in Cooper Library.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Clemson Writing Lab seeks to create a supportive and critical space for the confident expression of individual voice through writing by providing an adaptable, inclusive, and trusted environment for all writers to grow and learn.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Clemson Writing Lab aims to help students gain confidence in their writing, improve as communicators, and achieve their academic goals by providing high-quality, effective services in a supportive, inclusive environment.

## CORE VALUES

The Clemson Writing Lab's staff share a commitment to:

- Support student growth as they become more skillful, flexible writers.
- Cultivate and promote a thriving culture of writing on campus.
- Continually innovate our programs and services in a data-informed manner to meet the diverse needs of all Clemson writers.

The Clemson Writing Lab's professional staff share a commitment to:

- Provide high-quality training and mentoring to foster the student staff's personal, professional, and intellectual development as active global citizens.
- Maintain connection and relation to the greater writing lab community to stay current on research, trends, and innovations in the field.
- Continuous innovation in our programs and services through data-informed decision-making to meet the diverse needs of all Clemson writers.



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In graduate school, I attended a workshop where the leaders guided the participants through creating cornhusk dolls. Those scholars, Drs. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz, Joyce Rain Anderson, and Riza Crane Bizzaro taught the dolls in steps and wove stories around each element. When the workshop concluded, we reflected on the importance of community in making. Today, I see echoes of this community-making in the Writing Lab. Over the past year, the Writing Lab has grown in significant ways. At the core of this growth is a mission grounded in community: the development of community within the Writing Lab and how that internal community can better serve the larger community of Clemson.

In August 2022, the Writing Lab moved to Cooper Library. The new space, larger than any we have had before, allows us to host events, such as workshops and write-ins, and support many students for appointments. The space is also more accessible to students requiring reduced distraction environments or specific spatial accommodations. Writing Fellows had a hand in designing the space and choosing preferences for seating and workspaces. We are particularly excited to participate in the Cooper Library Learning Commons development in partnership with Clemson Libraries. They have been supportive and enthusiastic partners, always eager to collaborate on events. Their teams made the relocation much easier than it could have been. For that, I am very thankful.

Fall 2022 saw the recruitment of ten new Writing Fellows from across Clemson University. To our knowledge, this is the largest class of Writing Fellows since the inception of the Writing Fellows Program. This Writing Fellows cohort demonstrates the program's growth and is an encouraging sign of things to come. Now totaling twelve for the upcoming academic year, the Writing Fellows will provide multimodal appointments while conducting professional development through social media takeovers and workshops.

We conducted several events this year. Our ENGL 1030 Write-In events supported over 100 students in completing their projects. This event extended our hours while providing one-on-one consultations to attendees. We anticipate this event growing in popularity as our events are more widely advertised and circulated among ENGL 1030 instructors. We also collaborated with Grad 360 and Graduate Student Government to host a graduate student writing event. This fostered plans for collaboration next academic year.

Expanded dedicated graduate writing support was a massive undertaking this year. We launched a partnership with the Graduate School to create Graduate Writing Consultants, supporting fourteen graduate students in the completion of dissertations and articles. We have secured funding for another year and plan to expand this support in 2023-2024. We aim to create a sustainable framework for graduate writing support in partnership with the Graduate School.

I am incredibly thankful to our partners for their enthusiasm for the mission of the Writing Lab. I am also very grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Writing Lab community, all of whom dedicated numerous hours to the reliable support of fellow writers across the university. Our community allows us to weave together all these various elements into a coherent story of writing support here at Clemson. More chapters are yet to be written, and I am excited to see what those stories teach us!



**CHELSEA J. MURDOCK, PHD**  
DIRECTOR

# A NEW SPACE FOR NEW STORIES

The Clemson Writing Lab relocated to the third floor of Cooper Library in August 2022.



## ADAPTABLE SEATING

The Writing Lab space now offers various seating options, including comfortable booths and round conversation tables.



## EVENT SPACE

Events such as workshops, Tiger Write Nights, and other events can now take place within the Writing Lab with space for 75+ attendees.



## NDA-SECURE OPTIONS

The Writing Lab is now positioned to support research teams with NDAs, as there are private spaces for consultations.



## OFFICES FOR LEADERSHIP

The new location provides offices for the Director and Assistant Director, allowing leadership to remain within the Writing Lab to build relationships.



## GROUP APPOINTMENTS

Group appointments can now occur in multiple Writing Lab locations, including a large collaborative table with screen projection.



## REDUCED DISTRACTION

The design of the Writing Lab allows both consultants and writers to have the option of reduced distraction environments to increase accessibility.



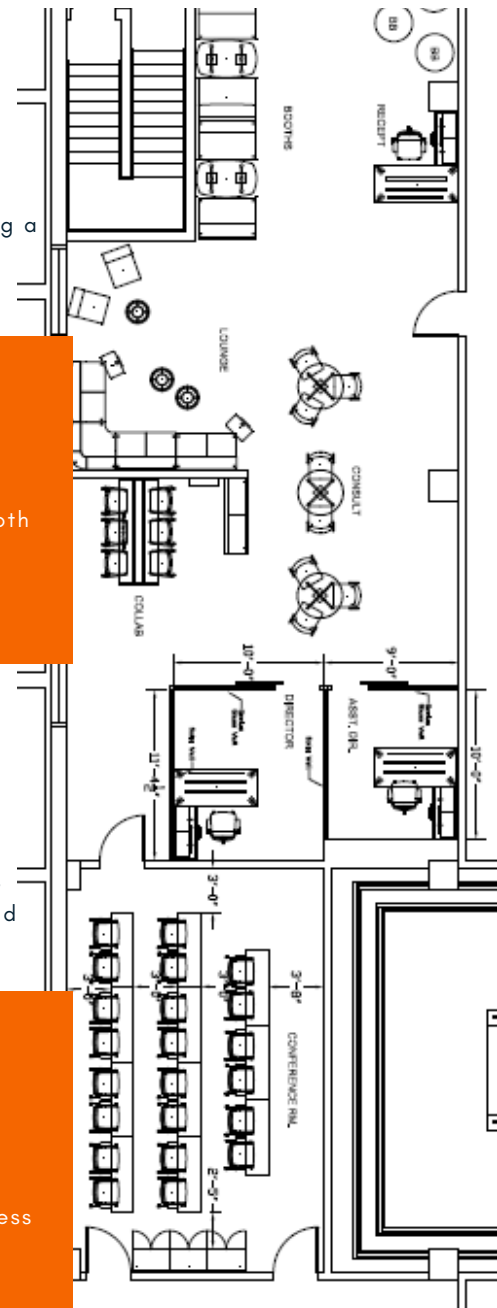
## CENTRALIZED LOCATION

The new location of the Writing Lab on the third floor of Cooper Library makes writing support part of the research and writing process for many students.



## A NEW NARRATIVE

At Cooper Library, a narrative of the Writing Lab as part of the writing process can be established rather than the remedial story told before at the ASC.





# UNDERGRADUATE WRITING SUPPORT

Writing Fellows and Graduate Assistants were integral to the continued, and growing, support of undergraduate writers across the university.

1394 APPOINTMENTS

OVER 50% OF ALL GRADUATE WRITING APPOINTMENTS WERE FACE-TO-FACE

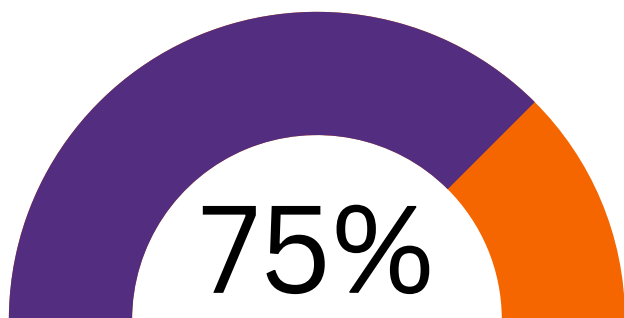
233 EMAILED FEEDBACK APPOINTMENTS, 334 ZOOM APPOINTMENTS

865 UNDERGRADUATE WRITERS

1145 NEW WRITER REGISTRATIONS

47% OF APPOINTMENTS WERE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS, 14% WERE SENIOR STUDENTS

WRITERS REPRESENTED ALL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS



OF ALL APPOINTMENTS ON COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

25% OF ALL APPOINTMENTS ENGAGED WITH NON-ACADEMIC GENRES SUCH AS EMAILS, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL APPLICATION MATERIALS, AND CREATIVE WRITING

## WRITING FELLOWS



Our staff of six Writing Fellows representing three different colleges worked with writers across the disciplines to support writers at various stages of the writing process.

In a new policy launched in Fall 2022, Writing Fellows can only support undergraduate writers, acting as peer consultants. With the launch of Graduate Writing Consultants, graduate writers no longer needed to utilize Writing Fellows to acquire writing support. This policy successfully underscores the peer nature of our writing support.

Writing Fellows actively participated in the recruitment of ten new Writing Fellows for the next academic year. This is in anticipation of growing usage numbers post-relocation and after the Cooper Library flood repairs.

# GRADUATE WRITING SUPPORT

In Fall 2022, the Clemson Writing Lab recruited and trained Graduate Writing Consultants, launching concentrated writing support for graduate students at Clemson.



## GRADUATE WRITING CONSULTANTS



We welcomed two Graduate Writing Consultants to the Writing Lab in Fall 2022. Charanjit Singh (M.S. in Computer Science) and Sage Short (M.A. in English) are specialized consultants for graduate writing, providing feedback to graduate students across the disciplines. Funding for the Graduate Writing Consultants was provided by the Graduate School. This funding has been extended to the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

**47** APPOINTMENTS

OVER 50% OF ALL GRADUATE WRITING APPOINTMENTS WERE EMAILED FEEDBACK

15% OF ALL APPOINTMENTS WERE FACE-TO-FACE, INCREASING IN SPRING 2023

**27** GRADUATE WRITERS

OVER 50% OF ALL GRADUATE WRITERS SCHEDULED TWO OR MORE APPOINTMENTS

10% OF GRADUATE WRITERS SCHEDULED FOUR OR MORE APPOINTMENTS

**8** GRADUATE PROGRAMS

GRADUATE WRITERS REPRESENTED AT LEAST EIGHT GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT CLEMSON, ACROSS DISCIPLINES

## GRADUATE WRITING DAY

The Writing Lab partnered with Graduate Student Government, Grade 360, and Clemson Libraries to host a Graduate Writing Day in Spring 2023. This partnership encouraged several graduate writers in the completion of their written works. Graduate writing consultants were on-hand to provide feedback and support if desired.

Plans are underway to repeat this event.





# GRADUATE ASSISTANTS: THE MIDDLE GROUND

The Writing Lab houses a varying number of Graduate Assistants from the English Department every year. These Graduate Assistants are the middle ground for all writers, between peers and specialists.



## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Graduate Assistants join the Writing Lab from the English Department during their first year of the Masters of English Program. These graduate students often use the Writing Lab to prepare for their second-year teaching assignments.

These Graduate Assistants often support undergraduate students and the occasional graduate student. Most commonly this year, Graduate Assistants engaged with ENGL 1030 students.

This experience in one-on-one support of ENGL 1030 students provides practical knowledge of writing assignment design as well as the most effective ways to provide growth-minded feedback to writers.

## PROFESSIONALIZATION

*"I feel like this gave me so much experience teaching. I got to learn both general ways to approach writing problems and ways to specialize my teaching. I also really got to understand how prompts/writing assignments can confuse or help the process."*

**KATHERINE WOODS**

Graduate Assistant

*"I think this position helped me get a lot of practice dealing with student expectations in a controlled environment, where I was able to try out new ways of engaging with student work without much risk. I'm much more confident now in my own ability to help students understand the more complicated aspects of writing and composition. "*

**ELENA DURANT**

Graduate Assistant



## WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT

Each Graduate Assistant works with the Writing Lab Director, Dr. Murdock, to create professional development opportunities that fit their professional goals.

This year, Karissa and Sabrina chose to create workshops on various topics. These topics included editing expectations, rhetorical analysis, and literary analysis.

# OUTREACH & EVENTS



**LIBRARIES WELCOME  
MUSIC BINGO**



**ENGL 1030  
WRITE-IN**



**WORKSHOP ON  
HEALTHY WRITING**

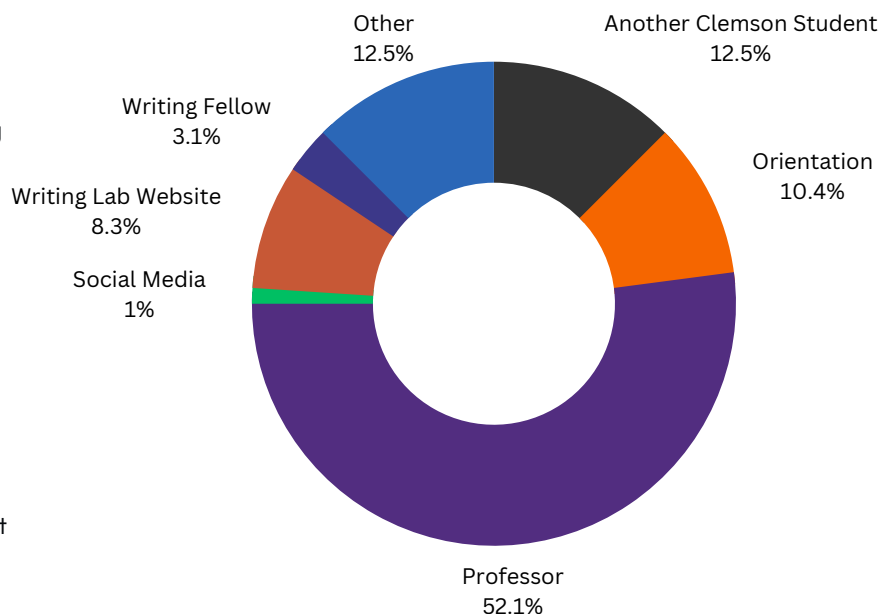


**half of writers using the Writing Lab learned of the us from their instructors**

## GETTING THE STORY OUT

Orientations are one of many methods by which the Writing Lab works to get the narrative of our support out to the university. Compared to 4% of survey respondents indicating orientation as where they learned of the Writing Lab, 10% of respondents now indicate they learned of the Writing Lab from orientations. Instructors are the primary method by which word reaches students regarding our support. Word of mouth is likewise increasing, with 12% of survey respondents referred to the Writing Lab by friends.

Increasing social media presence, outreach to instructors, and presence at orientations will continue our efforts to get the word out regarding our support.





# ENGL 4980

## WRITING SUPPORT THEORY & PRACTICE

ENGL 4980 introduces students to writing support theory and practice. While the class is open for general enrollment, new members of the Writing Fellows Program are required to take the course. ENGL 6980 is the graduate variation of the course.



### **Cultivating a respectful community**

One of the most critical priorities for the ENGL 4980 course is fostering a respectful community of students and encouraging respect in writing support.

# RESPECT



### **Engaging in writing support research**

Course participants conduct research that enters into writing center praxis conversations, often with significant implications for the Writing Lab.

# RESEARCH



### **Building strong relationships**

Relationships are the cornerstone of writing support. In ENGL 4980, course participants learn how to foster strong, healthy relationships.

# RELATION



### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

ENGL 4980 welcomed two guest speakers in Spring 2023. Dr. Brandy Blake from the Georgia Institute of Technology spoke with course participants about supporting writers in science and engineering.

Dr. Kendra Stewart-Tillman, Assistant Vice President for Diversity Education and Executive Director of the Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center, spoke about culturally competent leadership with course participants.

# FEEDBACK FROM WRITERS

Writers who use the Writing Lab are encouraged to provide feedback regarding their experience.



**120**  
TOTAL  
RESPONDENTS

Survey responses are anonymous.

Respondents can choose to answer any survey questions with none being required.

There is no incentive for survey response.

In future semesters, we hope to begin offering incentives for survey response.

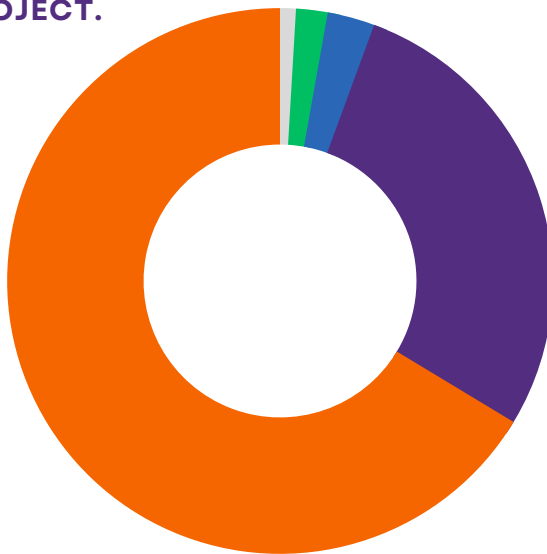
Survey response data impacts programmatic decision-making and consultant evaluations.

## THE WRITING LAB HELPED ME WITH MY WRITING PROJECT.

Neither Agree Nor Disagree  
2.8%

Agree  
28%

Strongly Agree  
66.4%



90% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS INDICATED THEY WOULD RETURN TO THE WRITING LAB



10% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS INDICATED THEY MIGHT RETURN TO THE WRITING LAB

## TESTIMONIALS



So helpful for my terminal project! Excellent and thoughtful feedback. I can breathe a sigh of relief that I got all my questions answered and left with a great formatting resource.



I thought she was extremely helpful and by far the best experience I have had with the writing center since freshman year.



I like how Lauren took the time to read through everything and answer my questions while providing feedback. She asked me questions to prompt me to brainstorm which I appreciated.



Hannah K is incredible. This girl can write. She knows what she is doing, provides excellent feedback, and is extremely kind and encouraging.



Emmaline was so great! She helped me create a solid outline, organize my ideas, and start my introduction for my personal statement for graduate school.



Abena is so great! She helped me write my statement of purpose for graduate school and provided some really constructive feedback. If I need any more writing help I will definitely look to be on her schedule.



The people in the Writing Lab are very knowledgeable about many different types of writing and how to construct each one!

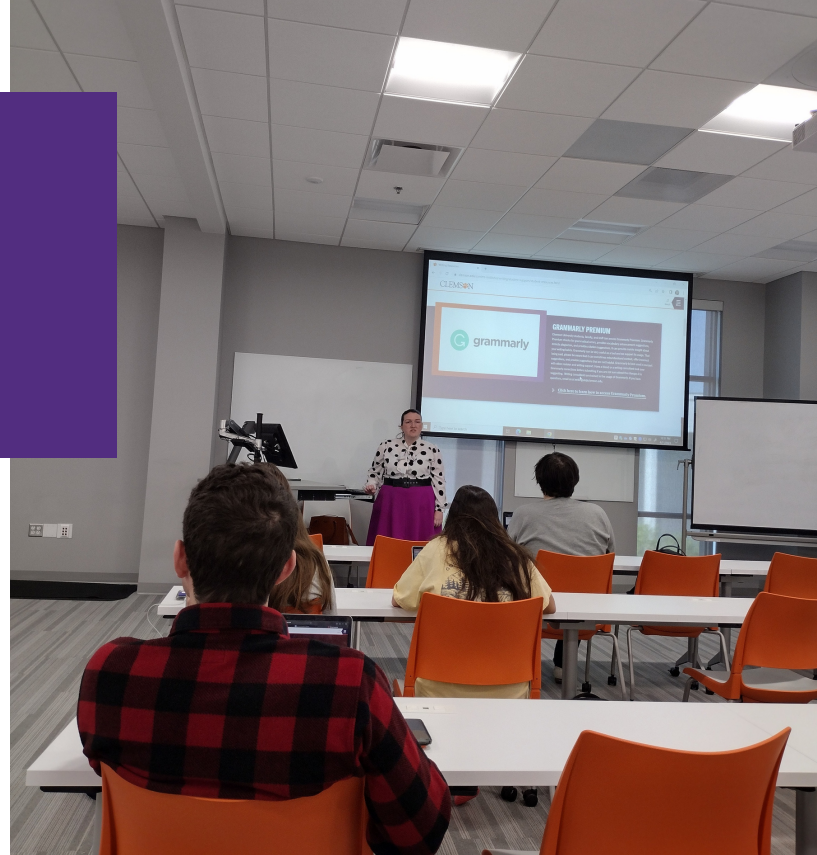


Very helpful and friendly, giving me a good amount of options on how to phrase my resume and cover letters!



# WORKSHOPS

The Writing Lab presented several workshops throughout the semester, requested by instructors and campus partners. These workshops were created upon request and subsequently added to the Writing Lab workshop collection.



## WORKSHOPS OF 22-23

- > **Editing and Providing Feedback**
- > **Using Grammarly**
- > **Dental School Personal Statements**
- > **Medical School Personal Statements**
- > **Overcoming Writing Resistance**
- > **Pitching Your Work to the Public**



*I enjoyed the workshop since it was tailored to our needs as the campus newspaper! I also appreciated the quick response to my workshop request and flexible scheduling, especially since we meet out of traditional business hours.*

**DAVID FERRERA**  
Editor-in-Chief, The Tiger



*[It was] very helpful to have the interactive section for medical school personal statements.*

**ERIN JONES**  
Clinical Applications & Medical Practice TA

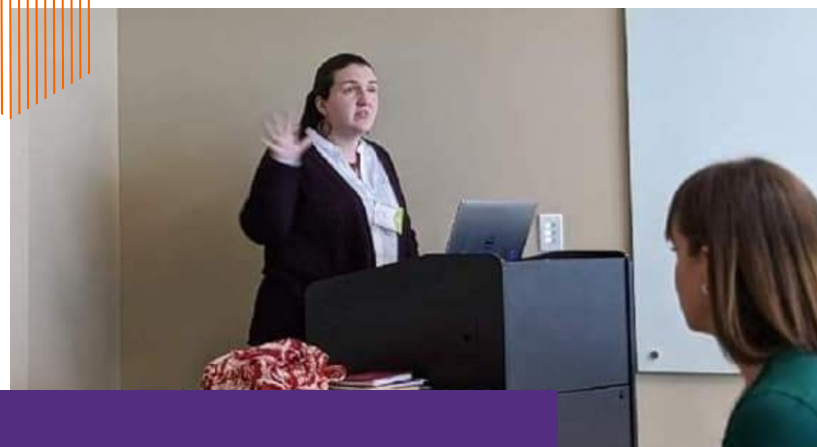


*The workshop honestly surpassed my expectations. I appreciated the time provided for students to ask questions after the presentation and workshop activity.*

**CARSON GUEST**  
Dental Clinical Applications TA

# 200+ STUDENTS ENGAGED

THIS YEAR SAW THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS SINCE 2019.





# FINAL-YEAR WRITING FELLOWS

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS



*My time as a Writing Fellow was an amazing experience. ENGL 4980 was one of my favorite college classes, and shaped the way I approached tutoring, writing, and simply being a peer. I learned how to prioritize and bring out the voice of the student, and helping others on their journey to being a stronger and more confident writer has been so rewarding.*

**LAUREN BULIK**  
Biological Sciences



*I've loved my time as a Writing Fellow at Clemson - it allows me to do two of my favorite things, write and help people. I can genuinely say being a Writing Fellow is my favorite position I've ever held. I feel like not only has my personal writing improved, but also my interpersonal and verbal communications skills. I have no doubt this fellowship will help me succeed in the workplace.*

**LIZA ALLEN**  
Marketing



*Being a Writing Fellow has been a wonderful experience. I have learned so much about meeting the needs of others and being flexible. Each appointment is completely different, and working with students from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds has been really beneficial. I have seen firsthand how hardworking Clemson students are, especially those whose first language is not English but who write incredibly well. I am grateful to all of the writers I've worked with for the knowledge they have shared with me about their fields and expertise. I hope I have been able to make a positive impact on the writers I have worked with by giving them more confidence about writing.*

**GRACIE BOYCE**  
Economics



*I am very fortunate for my time in the Writing Lab. I have not only grown as a student and a tutor, but as a writer. I have had the opportunity to work with individuals from across academic disciplines and writing levels, which has expanded my perspective on writing in education.*

**ELIANA LAZZARA**  
Performing Arts

### A LASTING IMPACT

There is no doubt that this cohort of Writing Fellows will have a lasting impact on the Clemson Writing Lab. They were integral in the launch of new training regimens, the design and relocation of the Writing Lab to Cooper Library, ongoing efforts in outreach, cross-campus collaborations, and continued changes to professional development.

They've received the moniker of the "Writing Lab Renaissance" cohort, a well-earned name.





# 2023-2033 CONSTELLATE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Writing Lab's first strategic plan to meet the needs of Clemson University and South Carolina.

## Why a strategic plan?

The Clemson Elevate Strategic Plan launched in April 2023. As Clemson University charts its future, we recognized an opportunity for the Clemson Writing Lab to create its first strategic plan, anticipating the demands of the university over the next ten years. In order to elevate, we decided, you must constellate.

## Who created the plan?

The Constellate Strategic Plan was created by collecting feedback from stakeholders, critically considering data from 2013-2023 to map trends, engaging with Writing Lab staff, and collaborating with partners.

**BUILD PARTNERSHIPS**

**DEVELOP MATERIALS**

**IDENTIFY FUNDS**

**FACILITATE GOALS**

**CONDUCT ASSESSMENT**

## FIVE CONSTELLATE GOALS



### Support Expansion

Expanding writing support to all Clemson writers through innovative programming and more outreach to various disciplines.



### Sustainability

Developing leadership infrastructure, maintenance of sustainable programming, and creation of online resources.



### Inclusive Excellence

Increasing diversity/inclusion in staffing, equity in practice within training, and more thorough emphasis on wellness and accessibility.



### Increased Engagement

Engaging the local community to support Clemson's land grant mission and creating more robust on-campus partnerships.



### Research

Increasing the Writing Lab's research output in publications and regional/national conferences, and emphasizing experiential learning



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