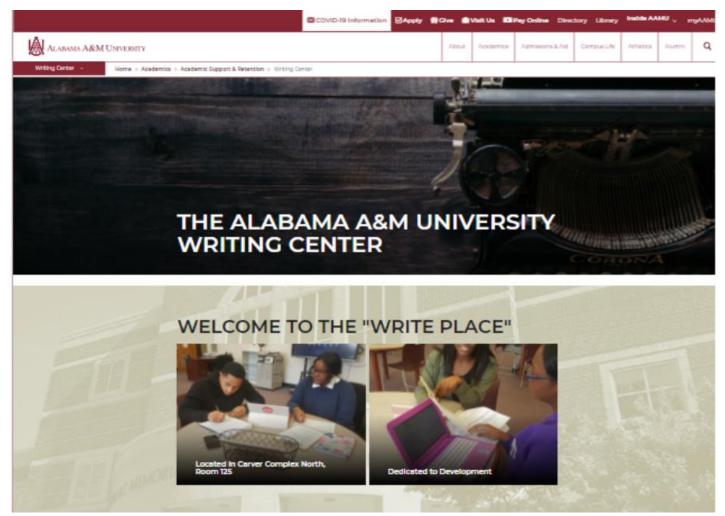


#### WELOME TO THE WRITE PLACE!

An Introductory Workshop, by Dr. Kem Roper

#### WHAT WE DO...

The purpose of "The Write Place" is to develop writers—not just writing! We promote writing as a process and work with all types of writers at every stage of the writing process. Whether you have an idea or a fully developed draft, we're happy to partner with you!



## WHAT WE DON'T DO

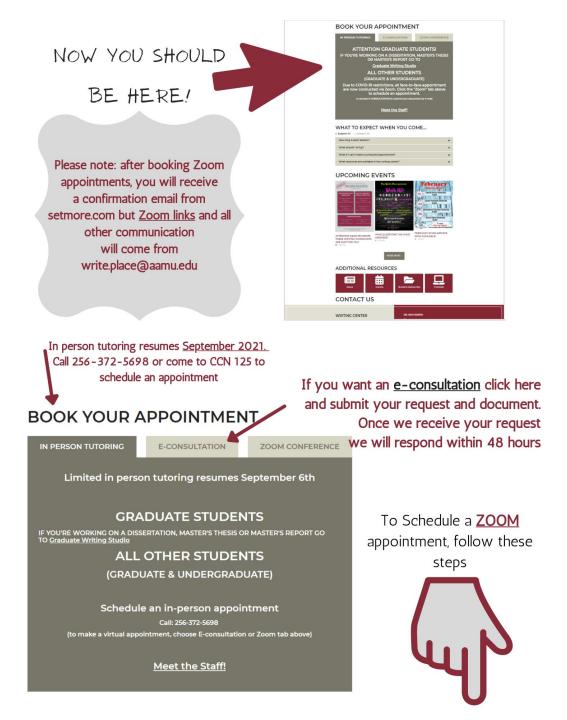


The Writing Center is NOT an editing service. Your paper will NOT be edited and returned to you error free. We also don't grade you or evaluate you. Neither do we approve or disapprove of your work.

Our job is to help you better understand and to help you improve your writing skills. Thus, you can expect from us suggestions and explanations for how you can improve the overall format, structure, validity, and content.

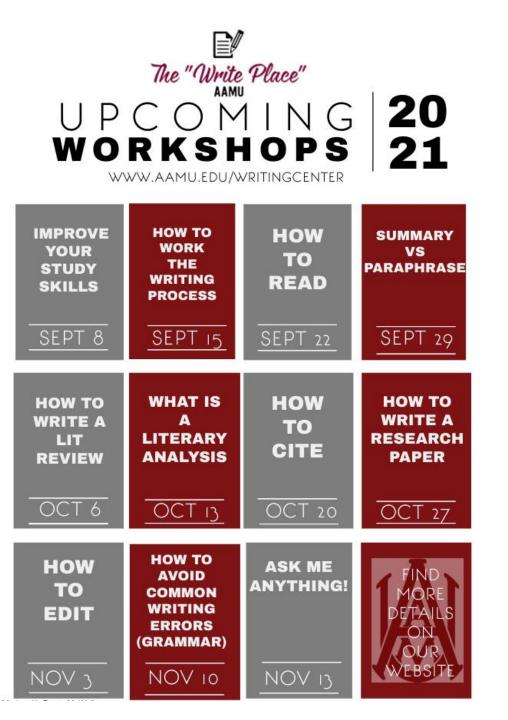
#### HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

- In person
- Zoom
- E-consultation



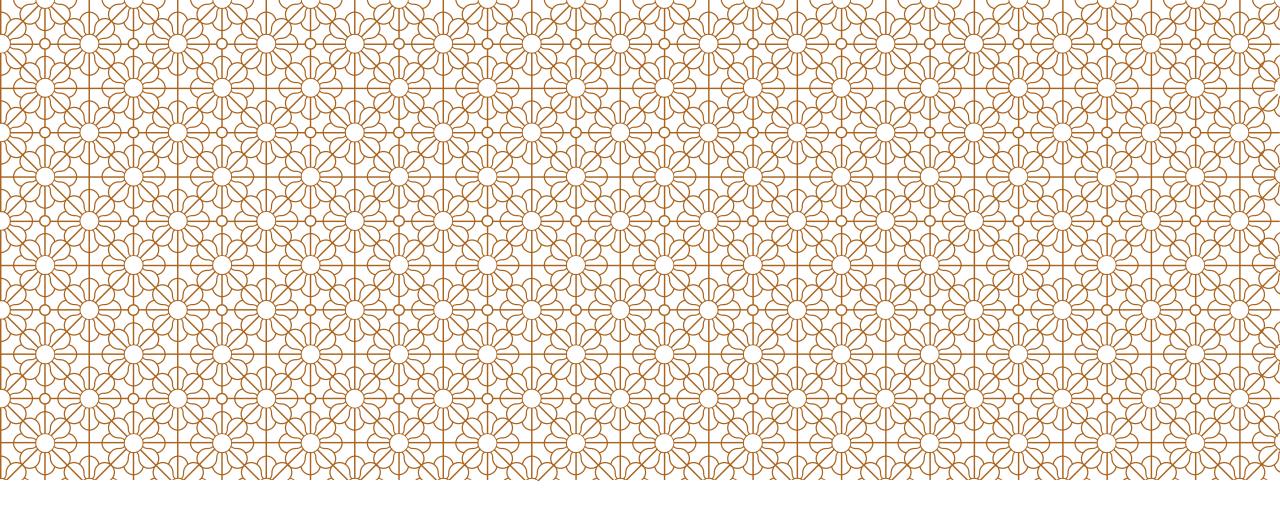
#### OTHER SERVICES...

- >Handouts and video tutorials
- Weekly workshops
- >Monthly scholarships
- Opportunities to work & to publish your work



#### HOW TO FIND US





#### INTRO TO RESEARCH

#### **BEGIN WITH A QUESTION**

- What is the purpose of your document? (besides the requirement for class)
- Who is the audience? (who cares, other than the teacher?)
- What is the key question or problem that needs to be addressed?
- What is your goal? What do you want to do?
  - ≻Inform
  - Persuade
  - Argue
  - Explore

# WHO IS TALKING ABOUT THIS? JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

- Your subject area has been studied, written about and, perhaps even debated before you got here
- Your first step is to see what others have said on this topic already
- You're not looking for sources that say what you're saying, you're looking for sources who are talking about your subject
- Your goal is to "listen" and compare the different perspectives



## THINK OF RESEARCH AS A SCAVENGER HUNT!

Identify:

- Their purpose
- Their audience
- Their response to the problem or question



#### **SOURCES ARE PEOPLE!**

Do you know who they are?



#### WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "GOOD"?

What does this source contribute to the conversation about this issue?

- who created this article/book/website?
- what was this created for?
- who is the person (or group of people) ?
- who do they represent and why?

#### NOT ALL SOURCES ARE CREATED EQUAL!

If research is searching for answers to a problem or question, consider who is the best source of credible information for your particular problem?

>Sources may be good...but good for what?

Remember that sources present an answer, not the answer

> Just because you find it in writing or on a site, doesn't mean it's credible

>And what does it mean to be credible?

>Even credible sources have limited information

#### GOOGLING=FISHING IN THE OCEAN

You may find what you're looking for, but you'll find a bunch of other stuff too!

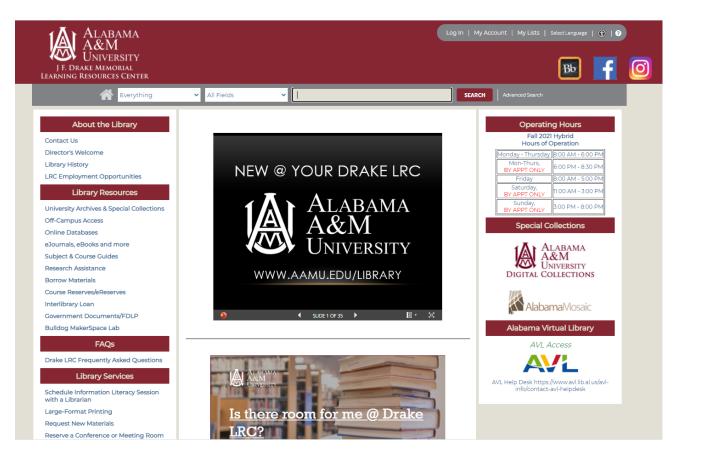


#### FISHING...



- Library resources are trustworthy: librarians do the work of vetting for you!
- Library resources are also specific: databases hold collections from your field of study
- Peer-reviewed journals
  journal articles are available
  free to you as a university
  student

#### DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND CREDIBLE SOURCES?



#### HOW DOES EACH SOURCE FUNCTION?

#### B.E.A.M.

- 1. Does your source provide you with background information about this subject?
- 2. Does it provide you with evidence that something is true, or not true about the subject?
- 3. Does this source provide a perspective on this subject—an argument for or against something?
- 4. Does this source propose a theory or method for understanding this subject?

#### YOUR RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL DETERMINE HOW YOU USE EACH SOURCE



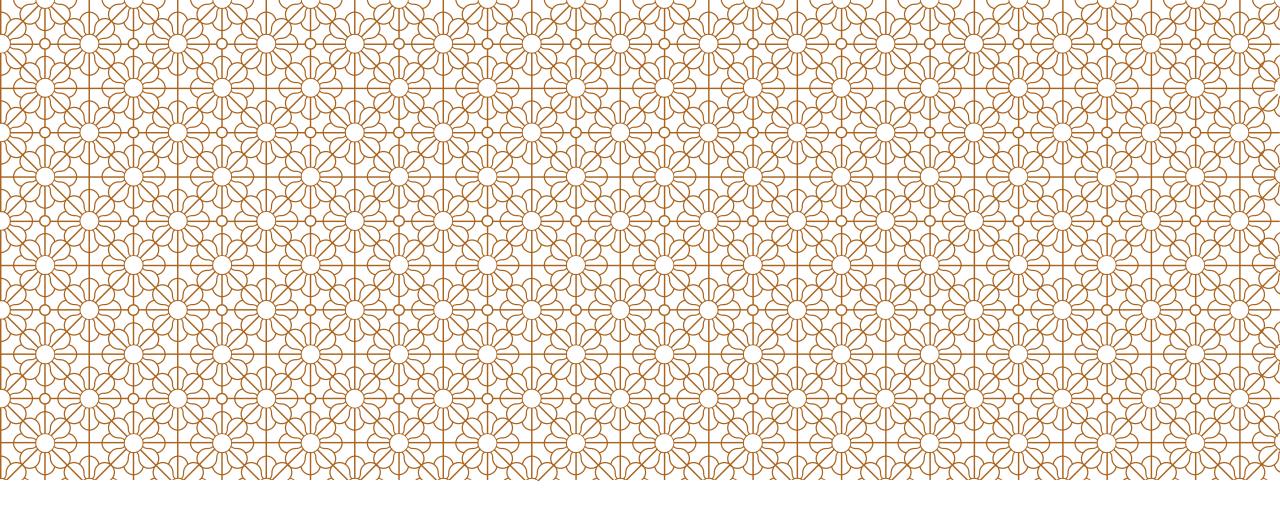


#### ASK: HOW DOES THE SOURCE HELP ME ANSWER MY KEY QUESTION?

## **GIVE YOURSELF TIME!**

- Estimate the amount of time you think it will take to conduct your research, and then double it!
- Allow time for gathering materials
- Allow time for reading

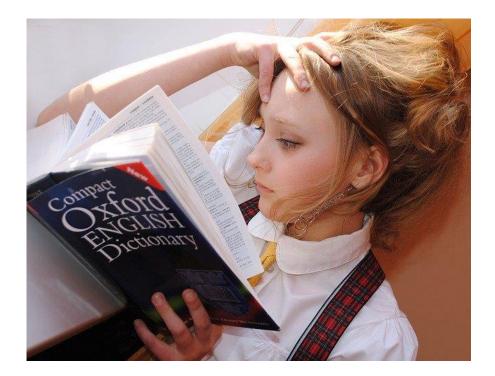




#### HOW TO READ DIFFICULT TEXTS

#### READING

- Think of reading as active, rather than passive
- "Reading" is studying and observing
- The goal is to think critically and extract information that answers the key question or problem



# **USE THE POMODORO METHOD**

Divide up your reading/study sessions

- Set a timer and work for 25 minutes
- Fake a 5 minute break





#### **READING STRATEGIES: GET AN OVERVIEW FIRST**

#### Read intro & conclusion

Go back to methods & procedures (how did they reach their conclusion?)

Are there parts you don't understand? Write down any question you have

#### **READING STRATEGIES: TROUBLESHOOTING**

- Email your teacher
- Partner up—with a classmate or study group
- Call on us! Make an appointment at the Writing Center



#### BREAK'S OVER!

- Come back to the article and re-read intro and conclusion
- See if it makes more sense now that you've gotten answers to your questions
- Read the other sections of the article that are relevant to your key question or problem
- Take notes on information that you think you will need in your paper
- Write from your notes to avoid plagiarism

#### WHAT SHOULD I WRITE DOWN?

Create an outline of each article in your notes

#### After the 1<sup>st</sup> reading:

in a sentence or two write the overall main point the author is making

#### After the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading:

 $\geq$  write a sentence or 2 summary of each section

#### CREATE A RESEARCH LOG

Gladwell, Malcolm. Outliers: The Story of Success. New York, Back Bay Books, 2008. Here I have put the information about source at the top. It is already "The university is a delightful place; lots formatted as an MLA Works Cited entry. of room in the classes and residences, no crowding in the cafeteria, and the professors are solicitous." (135) Gladwell describes a reality that did not exist for Blacks in the 1930s! Here are quotes taken directly from the book. Notice: He completely ignores the fact that this quotation marks indicate wasn't true for everyone exact, word for word from original. Ellipses indicate a Here are my "The sense of possibility so necessary for success comes not just from inside us or portion was left out and opinions about what brackets around "and" this author has said indicate my addition. from our parents. It comes from our time...[and]our particular place in history." (137)

#### **CREATE AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Ehrenreich, B. (2001). Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company.

In this book of nonfiction based on the journalist's experiential research, Ehrenreich attempts to ascertain whether it is currently possible for an individual to live on a minimum-wage in America. Taking jobs as a waitress, a maid in a cleaning service, and a Walmart sales employee, the author summarizes and reflects on her work, her relationships with fellow workers, and her financial struggles in each situation.

Lamott, Anne. (1995). Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life. Anchor Books.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**?

- It's another word for "Works Cited" or "Reference" list
- Go to Purdue Owl for guidance on what information is needed for each type of source
- This will be based on the style of documentation required (APA? MLA? Other?)
- And the type of source it is (website? Journal article? Book?)



#### FOR WRITING HELP...





www.aamu.edu/writingcenter

owl.purdue.edu