

# PEER WRITING CENTER AT ST. ANNE'S-BELFIELD SCHOOL

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Peer Writing Center (PWC) serves the Upper School community at St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our mission is to encourage curiosity, foster a love of learning in all writers, and inspire them to be bold in their personal writing goals. The PWC provides peer feedback to all St. Anne's-Belfield School writers in all disciplines. Our support will cultivate sustainable and robust writing practices throughout the Upper School community.



**SCHOOL TYPE**  
PRIVATE



**LOCATION**  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA



**YEARS IN OPERATION**  
2 (EST. 2019)



**NUMBER OF TUTORS**  
12 (GRADES 10-12)



**CONSULTATION TYPE**  
IN PERSON AND ONLINE



**TUTOR COMPENSATION**  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
HOURS



**OUTREACH**  
CONSULTATIONS FOR  
9TH GRADE STUDY  
SKILLS CLASSES

## PEER WRITING CENTER

The Peer Writing Center functions as a place for interested writers to talk about their work. The student consultants enthusiastically embrace the idea that every writer can gain confidence by exploring and honing their work in a supportive environment. Peer tutors have expertise across a range of writing styles and genres.

## ADVICE

### FOR EMERGING WRITING CENTERS

"Train your tutors thoughtfully, paying attention to not only specific writing skills but also underlying reasons that cause students to feel that they are "poor writers." Talk about how students who could benefit from the PWC might feel embarrassed to ask for help from another student. It's imperative to make every student feel welcome and to help them gain more confidence in their writing skills."

-Rosanne Simeone, PWC Director

## CHALLENGES

The pandemic presented a challenge for in-person consultations, but tutors and peer tutors deftly shifted to online sessions. These online sessions proved especially useful with our international students, who are predominantly online students this year. Tutors have found joy in learning how to navigate online tutoring tools.

## CELEBRATIONS

Tutors have demonstrated resilience and determination to make online tutoring work in this time of COVID. Every day they show the school community how important it is to keep connecting with each other, to keep listening to each other's stories, and to keep helping each other push just a little bit further.



As our faculty and student body have gained more experience with social distancing measures (and many of us are already fully vaccinated), the PWC has been able to re-introduce in-person consultations.

---

## THE JENSEN-HUTTON GRANT

The Secondary School Writing Centers Association (SSWCA) is committed to providing professional development opportunities to directors and peer tutors. Knowing that emerging centers are often in need of extra support, this grant seeks to provide financial support so that those who might not otherwise have been able to join SSWCA can do so to the benefit of their center.

---