

Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program

► At the University of Rochester, we are all writers. Writing enables us to persuade others of the truth, the utility, and the beauty of what we know.

From freshmen to faculty, we write in order to join ongoing conversations with scholars, advance knowledge, and better our communities. Mastering the skills of written argument, including critical thinking, problem solving, and organizing ideas and presenting them clearly, is of enormous importance throughout one's collegiate and professional careers.

Advised by an interdisciplinary faculty committee, the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program is focused on building a strong community of writers. The program does this by teaching writing courses, advising writers, sponsoring writing workshops and an annual writing colloquium, and providing a comfortable place to write.



The Writing and Speaking Center is the hub of the program's activities. It is staffed by graduate and undergraduate students who serve as writing consultants and writing and speaking fellows. They provide assistance at any stage of the writing and presentation process, from

brainstorming a topic to polishing a final draft to offering critical feedback on spoken texts. They even assist with lab reports and graduate school essays. The center also offers online tutoring through its Write-On program.



“Many students come into the Writing and Speaking Center uncertain about their work, but they leave here empowered. As a writing fellow, the experience of working with others has helped me greatly as a writer and leader. I’ve grown tremendously.”

Hilary Wermers '13

English and women's studies double major and recipient of the Jane R. Plitt Scholarship Fund (2010–11), Eva Litchfield Hall Tuition Grant Fund (2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13), and David T. Kearns Scholarship (2011–12)



How You Can Help

Give to the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program and help students become better writers and communicators.

Student Fellowships

Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at Rochester. The Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program needs funding for writing consultants and writing and speaking fellows. These peer tutoring positions are vital to the enrichment of Rochester's students.

Programming

Provide funds to support undergraduate contests and awards,

“write-a-thons,” and other activities that get students writing, such as the Inspiration Project, which pairs student writers with clients of CP Rochester—a local nonprofit organization that serves the physically and developmentally disabled—to help them tell their stories. Or support the dissertation writing process by funding graduate student boot camps.

Another funding opportunity is with the new Professional Communications Program, where students learn how to write résumés, cover letters, electronic communications, technical project abstracts, and other communications materials that will grow the skills they need to succeed in today's competitive job market.

Endowments

Endowed positions help attract and retain faculty and staff of exceptional talent. They are also among the most prestigious and visible honors at the University. Consider endowing the directorship of the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program. Or endow the Writing and Speaking Center and its programs and help ensure that services and resources will last in perpetuity.

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better

<http://writing.rochester.edu>



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For more information on giving opportunities, please contact
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