

THIS IS FOR YOU



*A writing zine about scuba divers,
your future, and personal growth.*

Carthage College Writing Center

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

College writing is inescapable for better or for worse. At Carthage, there are a plethora of resources available to students to make sure they feel supported during the academic year, including the Brainard Writing Center.

Within this zine we've worked to: banish misconceptions about visiting writing centers, address the anxiety that comes with asking for help, and give an idea of what honing your skills as a writer can do for you in college and beyond.

At the writing center we offer guidance during any stage of the writing process; tutors can help even if a student hasn't started writing yet. Even before a student starts writing it's easy for tutors to understand that asking for help comes with some strings attached. That's where this cool book you're holding comes in handy.

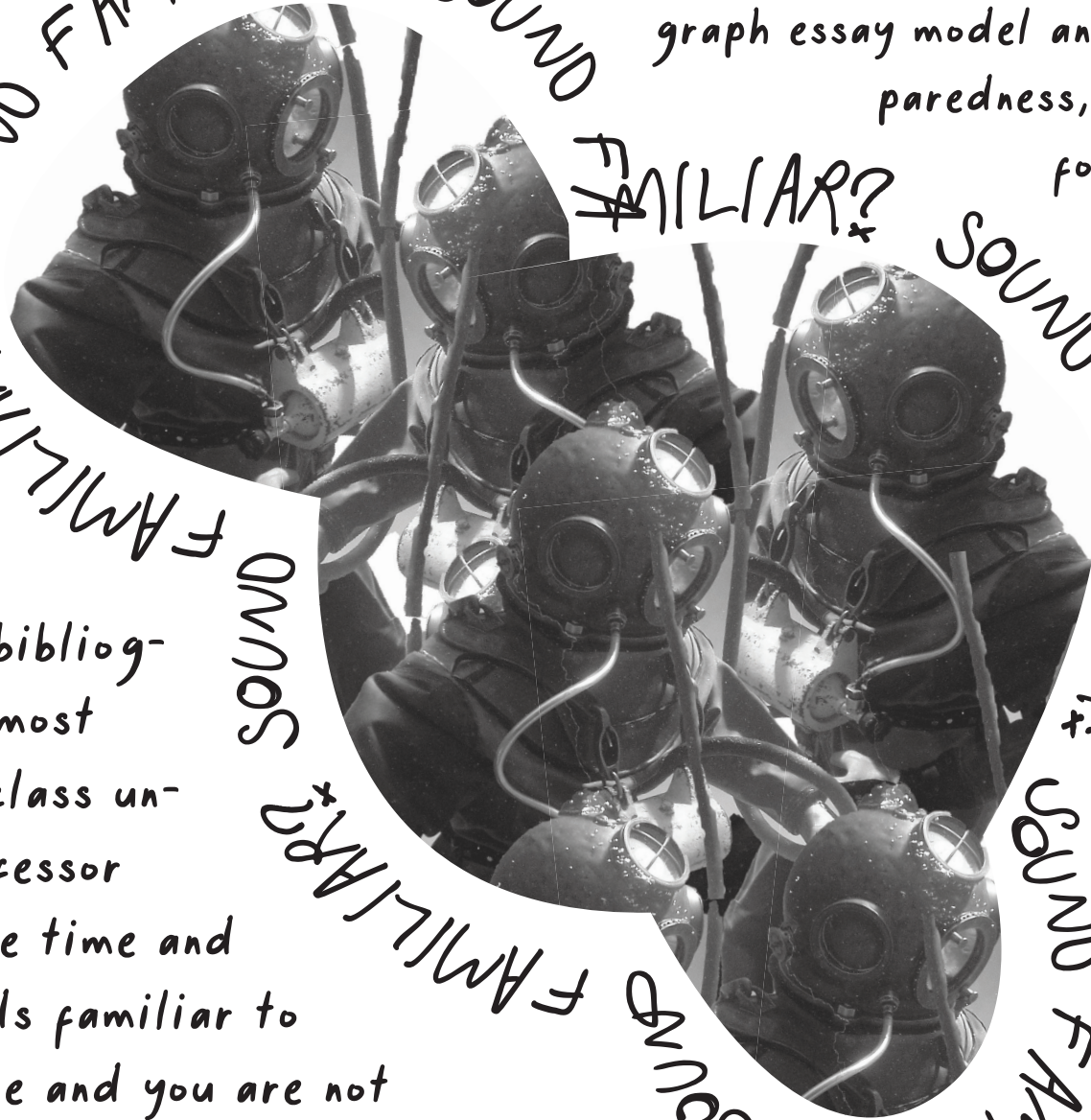
Lastly, we'd like to say thank you. You picked up a funky looking pamphlet despite not really knowing what might be inside.



CONSIDER THIS...



It's midterm season in your first writing-intensive course and your professor starts talking about your first paper that will count for a good percentage of your grade. They mention things like a thesis, supporting evidence, a counter-argument, and a bibliography. It seems like most other people in the class understand so the professor does not stop to take time and explain. If this sounds familiar to you, you are not alone and you are not behind either!



There are plenty of reasonable explanations as to why you may be feeling at a disadvantage in your first writing course. While many high schools preach the five-paragraph essay model and college-level preparedness, there are many that focus more on post-high school trades or occupations. It can feel like you are expected to know everything the first time around once you reach a college campus, but asking for help is the best thing you can do for yourself.

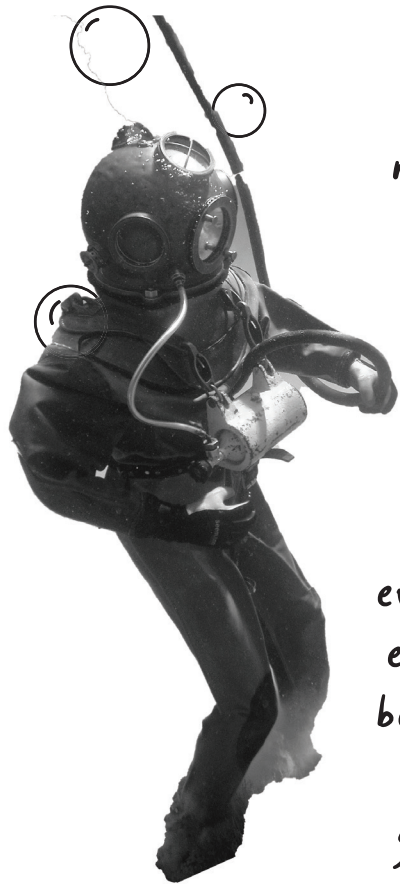
WHY THE SCUBA DIVERS???



Cheryl Hogue Smith shares an analogy in her article *Diving in Deeper: Bringing Basic Writers Thinking to the Surface* that outlines exactly what it's like to have a different baseline of understanding when faced with a problem. She says:

"I OFFER A RIDDLE: A SCUBA DIVER DROWNS IN 125 FT OF WATER WITH AN AIR TANK STILL HALF-FILLED WITH AIR. WHY DOES HE DROWN?" (SMITH 2010)

She goes on to explain that this riddle can only be answered correctly by an experienced diver. Someone with no experience will still try to answer, but due to their lack of prior knowledge, they won't have the specifics. This analogy goes to show that everyone starts somewhere different, so don't feel like you've lost before you've even begun! Seek the help you need and bridge that gap to fill in the missing pieces.



This is called: Different levels of abstraction

NON-DIVER



MAKES SENSE TO ME
↓
"HE WAS ATTACKED BY A SHARK?
HIS AIR TANK MALFUNCTIONED?
HE HIT HIS HEAD ON SOMETHING?
HE BE CAME STUCK IN SOMETHING?"

EXPERT DIVER



"THE SCUBA DIVER BECAME INFUSED WITH NITROGEN AND DEVELOPED NITROGEN NARCOSIS (A CONDITION KNOWN AS "NARCED"), WHICH, AT DEPTHS OF AROUND 100 FT AND BELOW, CAN CAUSE A SCUBA DIVER TO FEEL DRUNK AND MAKE A DANGEROUS MISTAKE LIKE REMOVING THE AIR REGULATOR FROM HIS MOUTH AND TRYING TO GIVE IT TO A FISH."

OH. . . ↗

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE.



Asking for help or wanting to improve your writing does not mean you are less than (it's actually the opposite). It is an essential part for all writers, including scientists, experts, and researchers.

IMPROVING YOUR WRITING PUTS YOURSELF ON THEIR LEVEL. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MINDSET!



~~A~~

~~89~~

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GRADE. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GRADE. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GRADE. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GRADE. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GRADE.

IT'S ABOUT:

- CONFIDENCE
- SELF-IMPROVEMENT
- YOUR FUTURE

~~55~~

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BUT REMEMBER: THIS IS FOR YOU

Many students struggle with a big change as they transition into college. That may or may not be you though. You could have adjusted just fine and you might make it all the way to senior year without getting caught up in your workload until you have to write a thesis. It doesn't have to be so scary, though, because there are resources available to help you! Arguably one of the hardest things to get used to in college is academic writing, and that is where the Writing Center comes in.

We are here to help you hone the skills you need to be a successful writer. At first, it may seem like the Writing Center is just a place you are sometimes required to visit or an opportunity to get extra credit, but it can be so much more than that.

It is a place
for you.



WHAT COULD THIS LEAD TO?

When you look ahead, what do you see? You've graduated college. You could continue to graduate school or enter the workforce, but you still need your writing skills to continue down your path to success. You will need to rely on your writing proficiency for:

- resumes
- job applications
- grad school
- raises and promotions
- and so much more!

Give yourself the best chance at success!

WE CAN HELP WITH THAT!
→

The Writing Fellows on staff are your friendliest peers who spent a whole semester in training before being put on the schedule and made available to help you. We are here to help you, in a judgment-free environment, and our main goal is your personal growth.

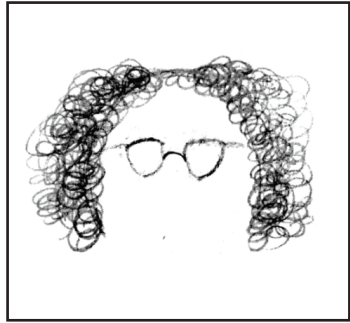
Visiting the Writing Center is completely painless and will, hopefully, leave you feeling confident in your work. Make an appointment on

[carthage.mywconline.com!](http://carthage.mywconline.com)



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

SO, WHO WROTE THIS?



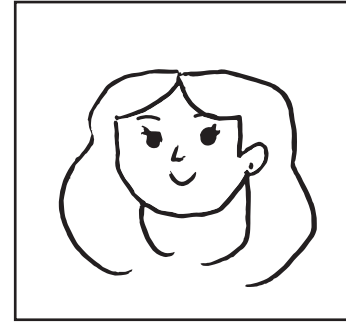
MORGAN
TAYLOR

I am a big fan of the Writing Center. I am always trying to hype it up and make sure people know how great it is. Do you know how great the Writing Center is? It's great. Everyone is so nice and funny and drop-dead gorgeous and humble. Anyway, I hope you liked this zine and I hope you have gained some confidence in your writing from it!



RIVER
FINNEGAN

Hi! I'm River and I'm a writing fellow at Carthage. I love everything and anything that has to do with writing, so this zine was a great way for me and my co-creators to express ourselves creatively while also providing students with accurate information about what we offer at the Center. I hope you liked the zine! Please visit us at the Center for all your writing needs. :)



MADELINE
PAAKKONEN

I love the forever growing community of staff, students, and fellows that we have created at the Carthage Writing Center. Creating this zine brought together so many of my passions, so I hope you enjoyed! If you get anything out of this, I hope you see the importance in wanting to improve yourself in whatever ways you choose! :)

Thank you for reading!!
Sincerely,
THREE WRITING FELLOWS

INSPIRED BY RESEARCH FROM:

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MacArthur, Charles A., Philippakos, Zoi A., Graham, Steve. (2016). A Multicomponent Measure of Writing Motivation With Basic College Writers. Learning Disability Quarterly, 39(1), 31-43.

Pfrenger, W., Blasiman, R., Winter, J. (2017). "At first it was annoying": Results from requiring writers in developmental courses to visit the writing center. Praxis: A Writing Center Journal, 15(1), 22-35.

Smith, Cheryl Hogue. (2010). "Diving in Deeper": Bringing Basic Writers' Thinking to the Surface. Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, 53(8), 668-676.

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