# The University Writing Center

## *Fall 2026 Newsletter*




### Helping UT Students Write Since 1993

In the UWC Newsletter, you'll always find a round-up of upcoming projects, events, and more from the University Writing Center! We hope you'll enjoy the newsletter, share its content, and encourage your friends and colleagues to subscribe.

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**As you read the newsletter, keep an eye out for the candy goat!**



# New Staff Spotlight

### Peter Shine, *Graduate Services Coordinator*



Peter Shine is originally from County Roscommon, Ireland, Peter moved to Austin, TX, in July 2023. Prior to working with the UWC, Peter was the Program Coordinator for the Digital Writing & Research Lab (DWRL) at UT. Peter has worked in the arts for many years, as an actor, a writer, and an educator. He has worked with some of the leading theatre companies, both in Ireland and Austin, including: Austin Shakespeare, Paramount Theatre, Druid Theatre, Decadent Theatre, and Fregoli Theatre.

He has received many notable bursaries and residencies, including being the inaugural recipient of the Druid FUEL Residency, during which he produced his first play *No Show*. Most recently, his short story *The Reformer* was broadcast on Irish national radio, as part of The Prompt with Zoë Comyns (RTÉ Radio 1). Peter can usually be found watching Monsters Inc. for the thousandth time with his son, Hubert, and his wife, Megan.

Email Peter at **peter.shine@austin.utexas.edu**.

## Derrick Ozuna, *Senior Administrative Associate*



Derrick Ozuna has served the UT System in various roles between UT Austin and UTSA since 2003. In 2015 he received the 2015 Staff Excellence Award from UT's Oden Institute, where he also attained a national Certified Research Administrator designation.

Derrick received a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies from Carleton College in Minnesota, where he also was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon fellowship for research in Mexico City. He received his master's degree in business from UTSA.

Derrick specializes in providing service in accounting, budgeting and other financial processes. A notary public for the State of Texas, Derrick is also available to provide free notary services to the UT community.

In his free time, Derrick enjoys 1980s horror movies at the Alamo Drafthouse and playing the piano. He divides his time between Austin and San Antonio.

Email Derrick at **derrick.ozuna@austin.utexas.edu**.

## Dr. Casey Boyle, *Director*



Casey Boyle is Associate Professor in the Department of Rhetoric & Writing. He earned his BA in English and Philosophy here at the University of Texas at Austin and, later, went on to complete a PhD at the University of South Carolina's rhetoric program. His teaching and research explore how communication media shape our experiences of the world. Much of these concerns are present in his published research which include *Rhetoric as a Posthuman Practice*; *Rhetoric, through Everyday Things*; Inventing Place, and *Topologies as Techniques for a Post-Critical Rhetoric*. In addition to these books, Casey has published in a variety of journals that include *College English*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *Technical Communication Quarterly*, *Rhetoric Review* and others. He is currently working on a few research projects that include a book on rhetoric and aesthetics as well as a long-essay/short-book examining *Aniara* as a case of multimodal poetics.

Email Casey at **casey.boyle@utexas.edu**.

# Fall Events

## Fall 2026 Orientation

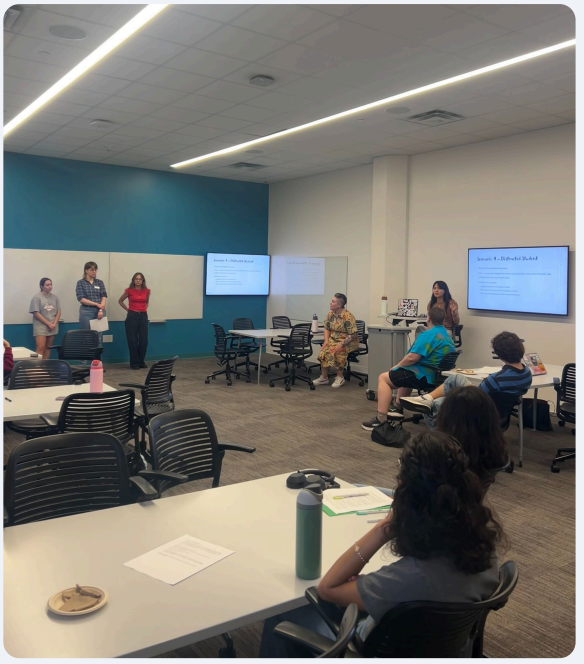
On August 20-21, we ran a successful orientation for our 2026-27 consultant team. Undergraduate and graduate consultants received refreshers on UWC protocol, practiced consultation strategies, and were updated on changes to the UWC (including new staff members, AI policy, body doubling consultations, and office layout adjustments). We were lucky to learn more about supporting neurodivergent students from our friends at Longhorn TIES Neurodivergent Support.

Consultants also bonded with their coworkers through meals and mentorship group introductions!


Fall 2026 Orientation


NEURODIVERGENT STRENGTHS
NEURODIVERGENT STRENGTHS


Fall 2026 Orientation





# Androids, Spirits, and Chatbots: A History of AI and Writing

**SEP 29 • 4 PM • Learning Lab 1**

**With Dr. Annette Vee**

Generative AI platforms such as ChatGPT have suddenly thrust the automation of writing into the public spotlight. The machine learning techniques behind AI may be new; however, for centuries, humans have attempted to automate writing using mechanical, spiritual, and procedural means. The automation of writing parallels a longer history of automation, yet with a twist: each of these attempts to automate writing also implicated a kind of artificial human intelligence.

Writing is uniquely human, and as such, it has served as a touchstone for scientific and literary imaginations focused on replicating human intelligence. This presentation puts current conversations about AI writing in historical context with 18th century androids, 19th century spiritualism, and 20th

century computer scientists to probe both what writing meant in previous eras as well as dominant assumptions of what it meant to be human in these eras.

***Co-sponsored by the Department of Rhetoric and Writing and the Department of Rhetoric and Writing Lab.***

**RSVP Here:**
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1999703474924?aff=oddtdtcreator




## Open House

**OCT 1 • 4-6 PM • UWC**

**Interested in working for the UWC?**
This Open House is an opportunity for interested students to learn more about the UWC internship course, RHE368C, as well as what they can do to become Writing Consultants. The internship course is designed to introduce students *from all majors and backgrounds* to writing center theory and practice, and is ideal for students interested in writing, rhetoric and communication, and teaching.

After completing the internship, students can apply to work at the UWC as consultants, a supportive and flexible job that offers a variety of professionalization opportunities such as certifications, promotional and

social media work, and research projects in addition to developing vital consulting, interpersonal communication, and writing skills.

**Apply for the internship course here:** https://uwc.utexas.edu/about/jobs/



## Longhorn TIES Workshop

**OCT 6 • 1-2:30 PM • Learning Lab 1, PCL**

**Blank Pages: Working with Writers Block**
Join this interactive workshop to learn practical strategies for overcoming writer's block and building momentum throughout the writing process. The workshop will include dedicated time to apply what you learn and make progress on your own assignment, no matter what stage of the writing process you're in.

***Co-hosted by the University Writing Center and Longhorn TIES Neurodivergence Support.***



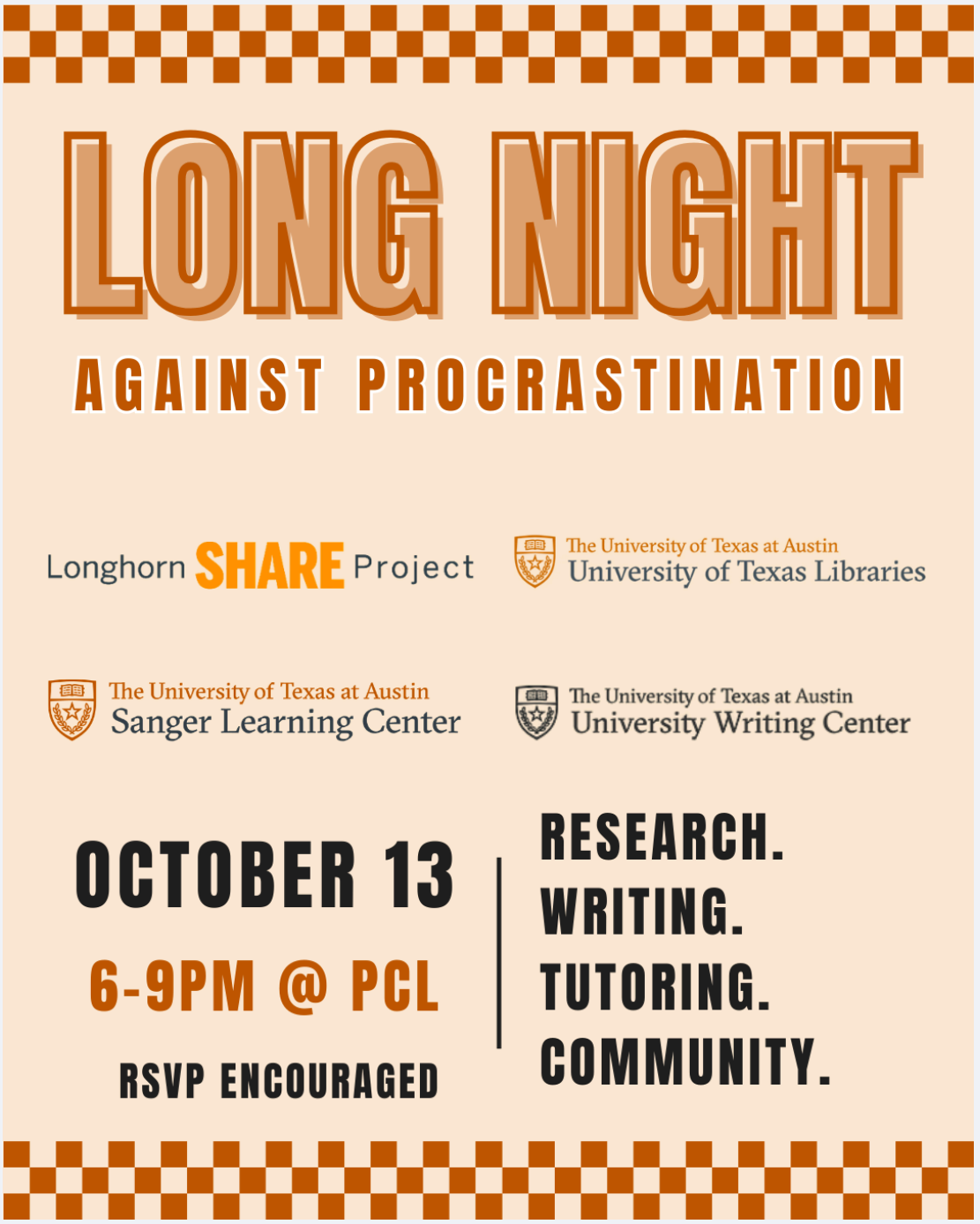

# Writing and Research Rodeos

**OCT 11, NOV 8, NOV 29 • 6-9 PM • UWC**

**Sunday Night Undergraduate Writing Retreats Return!**
After last spring's success, the UWC will co-host 3 more Writing and Research Rodeos this fall. Undergraduates looking for weekend accountability should come to these events to write independently, or meet with consultants and/or research experts from the PCL. Pizza and snacks are always provided!

***Co-sponsored by the Department of Rhetoric and Writing and UT Libraries.***

**RSVP Here:**
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1981593452359?aff=oddtdtcreator




# Long Night Against Procrastination

**OCT 13 • 6-9 PM • PCL**

Join UT Libraries for the "Long Night Against Procrastination," a dedicated space for undergraduates to tackle mid-semester schoolwork! Whether you need to finish a research paper, study for exams, or just need a productive environment, we're here to help.

Featuring research help, writing help, citing help, study tips and tutoring; mini-workshops; co-working and community; de-stress activities; and snacks, coffee, and swag!

**RSVP Here:**
https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/TLSevents/LNAP



## Graduate Student Writing Retreats

**9AM-5PM • UWC**

The UWC offers full-day writing retreats where graduate writers can focus on quiet, sustained writing in a supportive community. Retreats are twice a month and are free to all UT Austin graduate students. This semester, retreats will be taking place on these days:

- Saturday, September 26th (Register now!)
- Sunday, October 18th (Register now!)

- Friday, October 30th (Register now!)
- Saturday, November 7th (Register now!)
- Saturday, November 14th (Register now!)
- Friday, December 4th (Register now!)
- Saturday, December 5th (Register now!)



## Graduate Student Writing Groups

**In-Person or Zoom**

The UWC offers weekly writing groups led by our graduate consultants, for graduate students. These meetings include accountability check-ins for writers to set goals and reflect on personal writing habits and progress on a project, followed by a period of quiet, sustained writing.

Session 1 writing groups run for five weeks from Week 4 (September 14) through Week 8 (October 12).

In addition, our semester-long writing groups run for eleven weeks from Week 4 (September 14) through Week 15 (November 30).

**Sign up for all writing groups here!**

*Please note: In order to accommodate as many students as possible, we ask that you **sign up for a maximum of two groups**. If you sign up for more than two groups, you will be automatically removed from other groups.*

# Consultant Spotlight




## Mary Fons

Mary is a PhD graduate student in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, specializing in American Studies.

**Personal Projects:** I'm writing a paper to submit to the American Art Journal, which is published by the Smithsonian. I've been working on it for months and it will be the end of me, I fear. (But also I love it!) I'll be presenting at two conferences this fall, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (September), and the Southeastern College Art Conference (October). I really really hope I can present at the Aspen Design Conference this fall, but alas, that is TBD right now. Pray to the Aspen Design Conference gods for me!

**Accomplishments:** Dr. Eddie Chambers invited me to contribute an entry on quilts in the forthcoming Routledge Companion to African American Art Practices. I'm still pinching myself! Also, the editors of JAWS: The Journal of Art & Writing, asked me to sit on the review board. I said I'd think about it. Just kidding, I totally said YES!



## Farah Breacher

Farah is an undergraduate student studying English.

**Book Recommendation:** *Shady Hollow* by Juneau Black: If you love cozy villages with talking animals and also murder mysteries, then this is the book for you! Follow the curious journalist, Vera Vixen, in solving the murder that has shaken the quaint and humble town, Shady Hollow.

**Personal Projects:** As the emerging Managing Editor for The Searcher (our website isn't updated yet), UT's only Humanities journal, I am super proud of the work we are doing. We serve as an outlet to those who have theses, research papers, or any papers of the sort that they are immensely proud of and want an

introduction to publishing their work. Therefore, if anyone wishes to get their writing published, then please submit to The Searcher! I also have a SubStack called The Magnolia Press. My main focus is culture and looking at the relationship between the ego or self and religion, spirituality, or social norms. I'm currently writing a new article about how we do not always need to prove ourselves to others by letting go of the ego, in the context of narcissism in academia/higher education. Coming soon to an electronic device near you!



## Abby Alsup

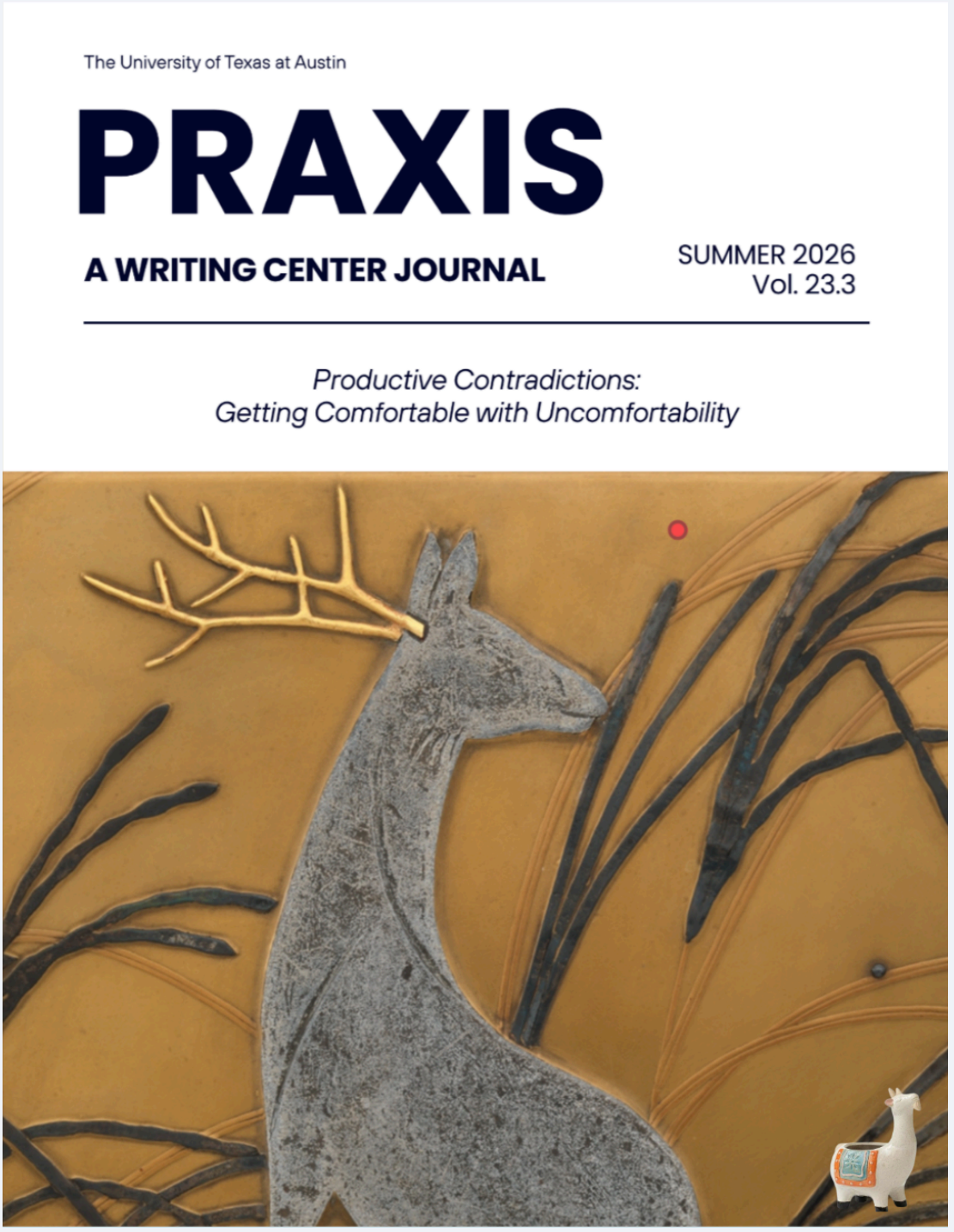
Abby is an undergraduate student studying Sociology and Rhetoric & Writing.

**Book Recommendation:** *The Book of Two Ways* by Jodi Picoult: This book is a little on the longer side, but it's a super quick and interesting read. This book is full of action scenes, lessons in Egyptology, old Irish superstitions, heartfelt moments, and complex moral and ethical dilemmas- it has it all!

**Personal Projects:** Right now, I'm working on a literature review on mobile legal service delivery for my research position and working on a glossary of rhetoric for school.

**Accomplishments:** I've earned University Honors and made the Liberal Arts Dean's List every semester that I've been at UT!

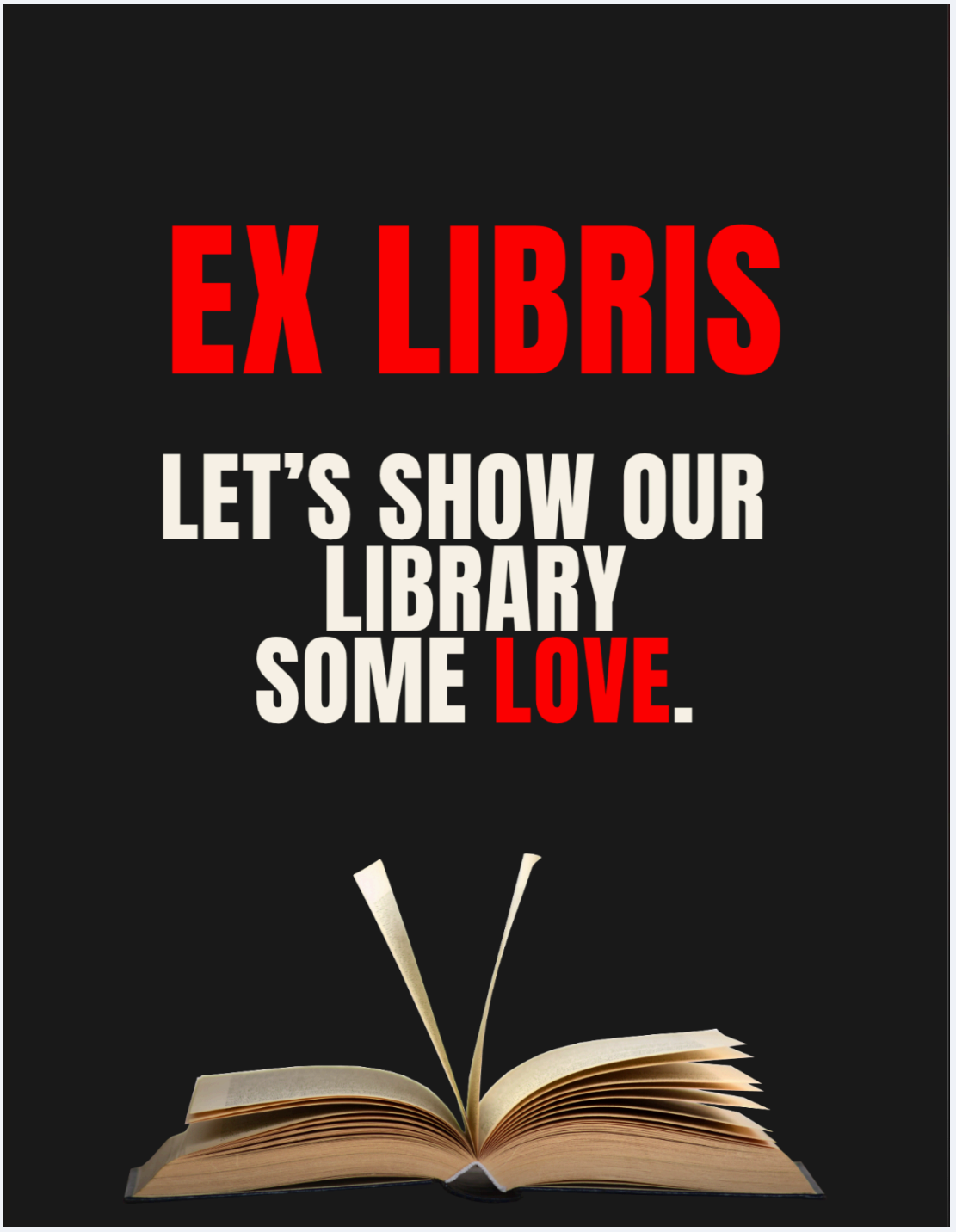
# Connect with Us




## Praxis

The UWC's peer-reviewed journal of writing center scholarship is undergoing some cosmetic changes. Up first: the cover. We've upped the visual impact with bold fonts and a slick layout that features a different image each issue, all of which will be related to writing in some way. On the cover of the Summer 2026 issue, "Productive Contradictions: Getting Comfortable with Uncomfortability" (Vol. 23.3) is an eighteenth-century Japanese writing box (*Suzuri-bako*). We're also experimenting with some images inside the journal, so flip through and see what you find.

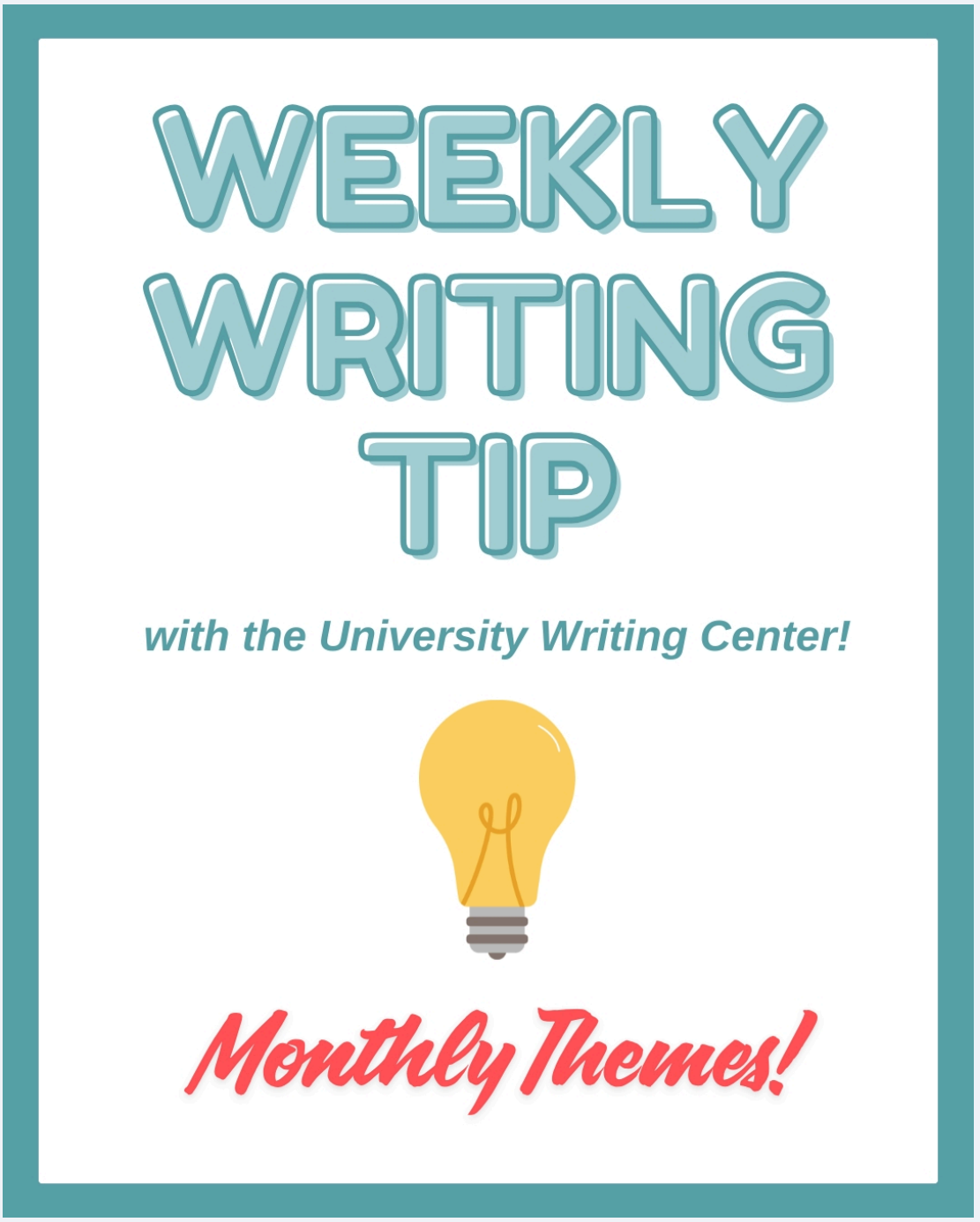
**Click here for Praxis!**




## Ex Libris

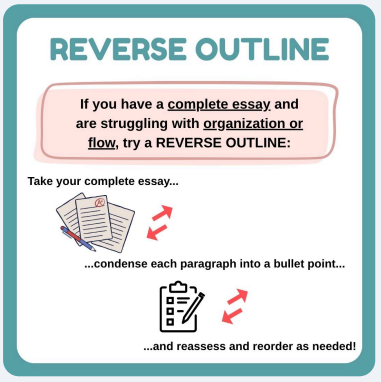
Hey, consultants! You know those three big bookcases on the back wall of the UWC? You probably pass by them many times during a shift, but it's time to take a look inside. There's great stuff in there! The Ex Libris Project is simple: we're going to read the entire UWC library, one book, one essay, one chapter at a time and share our thoughts on AXIS, the writing center's blog. Let's revive, refresh, and reflect on the literature in those bookshelves. There's a lot of great stuff just a few steps away—and you get paid to work on it! More information is coming soon, so make sure to check slack and email for announcements!

**Click here for Ex Libris!**




# Weekly Writing Tip

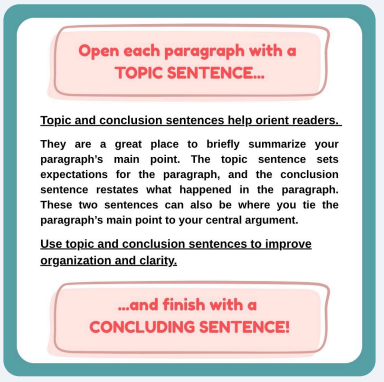
Enjoy our most recent Weekly Writing Tips below, all on Essay Structure. For more writing tips, follow our Instagram!




## Reverse Outline




## Signposting




## Topic Sentences

Click for Post | Click for Post | Click for Post



## Did you find the candy goat?

Did you spot the candy goat? Every newsletter will include a hidden candy goat for readers to find. This issue the goat was sitting on the Praxis cover.

**The University Writing Center**
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