

Canvas End Comment Examples: Referring Students to the Writing Center

The Writing Center can be useful when a student would benefit from talking through a specific writing problem with another reader that isn't the person grading the work. When referring a student, identify one or two things you would like them to work on in their consultation rather than simply telling them to "go to the Writing Center," which can be interpreted by the student as directionless and punitive.

If students don't know how to make an appointment, direct them to our homepage <https://www.uwyo.edu/writing-center/index.html>. From there, they will click on 'Schedule a Consultation' and make an account and appointment through our scheduling platform WOnline.

Students don't need to be referred by an instructor to make an appointment at the Writing Center, but a referral from an instructor can spur students into action. We recommend reading the *Understanding the Purpose of the Writing Center* guide before referring students. Here are some examples of language you can use (specifically designed as Canvas end comments) when you want students to seek outside advice on their writing. Start with the General Referral and fill in the concern or use one of the ready-made versions.

General Referral

I recommend making an appointment with the Writing Center before you write your next draft. A consultant can help you talk through [specific concern] and develop a plan for revising it. Bring this assignment prompt (found in Modules Week X) and your current draft with you so that you can work together on some concrete next steps. The consultant will be much better able to help you if they can see what the assignment is asking you to do. *[add this, for a multilingual writer: The Writing Center can help you with patterns in your language as a writer, not just corrections].*

Argument or Thesis

Your good ideas are beginning to emerge in this draft, but the next step is clarifying the main argument you want the reader to take away, rather than providing lots of smaller ideas. I recommend taking this draft to the Writing Center, along with the assignment prompt (found in Modules Week X) and talking with a consultant about clarifying your thesis statement and how the rest of the paper develops it.

Organization

I'd like you to focus your next revision on organization. There are several strong ideas here, but the relationship between them is sometimes difficult for a reader to follow. I recommend working on transitions between ideas and making sure all ideas are framed in a way they relate back to your main argument (your thesis). The Writing Center would be a good place to talk through the structure of the paper and map out how you want the ideas to build on one another. Bring your draft to your appointment along with the assignment prompt (found in Modules Week X).

Evidence

For your next revision, I'd like you to focus on how you introduce and use evidence, including your use of attributive tags ('According to Bean and Melzer, "....."). I recommend making an appointment with the Writing Center and working with a consultant on 1-2 places in your paper where you could more clearly explain what your evidence shows and how it supports your larger point.

Clarity

I'm having difficulty following your thinking in a few parts of this draft. Rather than trying to revise those sections sentence by sentence on your own, I recommend working through them with a Writing Center consultant. Ask the consultant to help you identify where a reader loses the thread and what information might make your ideas easier to follow. Talking through your ideas out loud with a consultant will help you clarify them to yourself.