Tailoring Your Writing Center Session to Your Needs

When you visit the writing Center for a one-on-one tutorial with a writing teacher, you are in charge—you set the agenda for your thirty-minute appointment. To get the most out of your time with the tutor, you might to spend some time thinking—even writing—about the kinds of things you want to accomplish.

Try to come to the Writing Center prepared to answer the following questions:

- **What are the requirements of your assignment? When is it due?**  
  *If your professor has given you an assignment sheet or described the assignment in your syllabus, it’s a good idea to bring this material with you.*

- **Where are you in your progress on the assignment?**  
  *What have you written so far? Notes? An outline? A draft? Bring whatever you’ve produced so far in your work on your paper.*

- **What feedback have you already received?**  
  *Have talked about your ideas with your teacher? Gotten comments from him or her? Have you traded papers with others members of your class? Make a list of your reader’s responses to the work you’ve done so far.*

- **What are your concerns?**  
  *Make a list of the matters about which you are uncertain. Do you want help in coming up with ideas? Organizing your thoughts? Developing your ideas further? Going into greater detail? Deepening your analysis? Stating your ideas more clearly? Correcting problems with grammar and mechanics? If you’ve already begun to work on your essay, you might annotate a draft, highlighting passages you on which you think you need to work.*

Share the above information as you sit down with your tutor to begin your Writing Center visit. This will help the two of you enjoy a productive session!