

**LEGAL RHETORIC PROGRAM**  
**WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW**

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**WRITING FELLOWS**

Although the Writing Fellows primarily assist 1L Rhetoric students, Writing Fellows are available to all current WCL students who need assistance with their writing. Writing Fellows offer valuable feedback on writing from a trained student peer.

**What kinds of writing will the Writing Fellows review?**

Writing Fellows spend most of their time working with students in the first-year Legal Rhetoric course. On an availability basis, however, Writing Fellows may schedule appointments to review student writing samples.

**What kind of assistance do the Writing Fellows provide?**

Writing Fellows will help you with grammar, writing strategies, citation, organization, and other writing issues. Because the Writing Fellows are not experts in every legal topic, their comments will not address the substance of your papers. Writing Fellows will not proofread your papers, but they are prepared to offer strategies to improve your own proofreading skills.

Writing Fellows act as your intended audience; many of their comments will pertain to the intended reader's probable reaction to the document. This feedback will help you see any areas where your document creates confusion and the reasons for that confusion, but it will encourage you to come up with your own solutions. At times, a Writing Fellow might give you suggestions on how to revise a particular passage. These suggestions will be made by way of example, not for an entire paper.

## **Where can I find the Writing Fellows and what are their office hours?**

Unless otherwise indicated below, the Writing Fellows typically hold office hours in the Legal Rhetoric Writing Center and conference room (Room 129). Writing Fellows are available by appointment on six days per week, totaling 50 hours per week of writing assistance coverage. Here is the current schedule:

**Sarah Bury (ESL):**                    [sb6886a@student.american.edu](mailto:sb6886a@student.american.edu)

Tuesdays:                            4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Thursdays:                           3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Brendan Carroll:**                   [bc9227a@student.american.edu](mailto:bc9227a@student.american.edu)

Mondays:                             3:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays:                        4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Julia Colarusso:**                   [juliacolarusso@gmail.com](mailto:juliacolarusso@gmail.com)

Mondays:                             12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays:                            11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Thursdays:                           11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Bethany Dickman:**                [bethany2@gmail.com](mailto:bethany2@gmail.com)

Mondays:                             8:00 – 10:30 p.m.  
Fridays:                                12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  
Sundays:                               4:30 – 8:00 p.m. (Library; specific location TBD)

**Lydia Grunstra:**                   [lgrunstra@hotmail.com](mailto:lgrunstra@hotmail.com)

Wednesdays:                        11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Thursdays:                            6:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Fridays:                                12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Angel Martinez (ESL):**            [angel.martinez@student.american.edu](mailto:angel.martinez@student.american.edu)

Tuesdays:                            1:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays:                        3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
Thursdays:                            12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**All students are also welcome to look through our Legal Writing Library for additional resources. The Library is located in the Legal Rhetoric conference room: Room 129.**

## **How do I sign up for an appointment?**

All students must schedule appointments with the Writing Fellows through the Rhetoric Office. The primary contact person for scheduling is Darryle Brown; his e-mail is [dbrown@wcl.american.edu](mailto:dbrown@wcl.american.edu). Mohsin Ali is also available to schedule your appointments; his e-mail address is [mali@wcl.american.edu](mailto:mali@wcl.american.edu). There will always be an appointment sign-up sheet in the Legal Rhetoric Office. Do not contact the Writing Fellows directly to schedule an appointment. Appointments with Writing Fellows are approximately 15-20 minutes.

Pursuant to the Course Requirements, there is a 24-hour black out period before your graded paper is due. During this black out period, except under exceptional circumstances, you may not schedule an appointment with a Writing Fellow.

Students may only meet with one Writing Fellow per week; scheduling appointments with multiple Writing Fellows in one week results in their unavailability for other students who have not met with the Fellows.

Please come to the conferences with specific questions; general questions such as “Is this good?” or “Is this okay?” are not acceptable and do not make maximize use of the conference time.

The Writing Fellows are a valuable resource. Remember though that self-editing is the hallmark of good legal writing, and take time to fully draft and edit your papers before meeting with a Fellow.