

Strategies for Approachable Asynchronous Feedback for Both Online Writing Tutors and Instructors

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These strategies are useful for both tutoring and instructing student writers.

- **Practical to implement:** You can start using these strategies today with your students, and the strategies require no additional technology or tools.
- **Aid comprehension:** These strategies help students navigate, understand, and use your writing feedback, which is often helpful for students unused to writing feedback or the kind of writing feedback you may be giving.
- **Encourage active revision:** These strategies involve students in the revision process, asking them to engage in their writing proactively rather than passively consuming your feedback.

#1: Highlighting Patterns

Example:

Where Do You Find Your Writing Motivation?

Finding motivation to write has always been somewhat elusive for me. While I'm generally a pretty productive person, when it comes to writing, I often find myself procrastinating and waiting until conditions are just right to sit down and put words on the page.

Getting those conditions "just right" often means that I need to start writing well ahead of my deadline.

For me, if I start writing without a deadline breathing down my neck, I can often trick my mind into thinking I'm working ahead of schedule, something my type-A personality really appreciates. This feeds my motivation, and I often find that writing comes easier to me when I'm writing working ahead.

The other component of writing motivation for me is finding the right environment to write in. As a staff member in the Writing Center, I work from home and on my computer 5 days a week, so I find that I can easily be distracted if I try to write in our busy office. Instead, I try to sit somewhere else to do my

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These first sentences of your paragraph **highlight** work as **really helpful topic sentences** for your reader, introducing the focus of the paragraphs and helping the reader navigate the progression and organization of your ideas.

Benefits:

- Save time on both local and global feedback
- Avoid focusing on editing

#2: Labelling Comments

Example:

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Transitions: This phrasing helps connect the previous sentence and idea to the next one, linking your ideas clearly and smoothly for the reader. Transitions like this help to increase the cohesion and flow of your writing, which you're doing well here.

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Transitions: These ideas **don't** quite seem connected without a transition. Use the great example of how you added a transition above to add one here too, connecting these ideas for your reader.

Benefits:

- Encourage students' understanding of writing terms
- Help students connect feedback on the same topic holistically
- Labels can be worded in whatever way you prefer or best connects with the student

Online Writing Center (OWC) Community

<http://onlinewritingcenters.org/>

Overview and Resources

- The Online Writing Center Community website brings together tutors, consultants, professionals, and administrators from writing and learning centers to establish online writing support as a professional area of study.

- Supports online writing centers
 - Website
 - Listserv
 - Mentoring program
 - Virtual conversation hours

Upcoming Initiative

- Looking for a founding board member: Treasurer
- Contact Beth for details: Beth.Nastachowski@mail.waldenu.edu