

Press Release

Metro Community College

MCC's Writing Center has launched their new blog focusing on writing improvement geared towards students and faculty. Katie Stahlnecker, the director of the Writing Centers, said the "Writing Center Underground" blog is a site that contains tips, information, ideas and discussion about writing.

"Our goal in developing this blog is not only to offer another writing resource for students but also to provide for faculty a way to incorporate social media into their curriculum," Stahlnecker said. "There are many ways to incorporate our blog into classroom curriculum, and we hope instructors will try it out and see how it can best serve their needs."

The "Faculty" link on the website will share some ideas on how instructors could utilize the blog, including

- Have students visit the blog weekly and post comments to engage in writing discussions
- Ask students to come to class ready to discuss the weekly post
- Post their own questions to the blog. Ask students to find a weekly post that piques their interest and pose a question to the blog
- Write short response papers on any of the posts or discussions
- Offer their writing (creative or academic) to be shared on the blog

Some of the blog topics include generating ideas, improving sentence-level mechanics, and avoiding plagiarism. Since its launch last fall, instructors who have incorporated the blog in their classrooms are excited by the results. Stahlnecker says that instructors are often reticent to utilize social media in their classrooms: "Blogs often have the image of being a wasteland of bad writing, but a good blog can be a wonderful tool to create enthusiasm for writing." The blog affords students an opportunity to join a conversation on writing topics without the formality or stress of the classroom. Students who may otherwise be reluctant to speak up with questions or comments in class may like the forum a blog gives them.

The *Writing Center Underground* blog can be accessed at writingcenterunderground.wordpress.com or through the Writing Center homepage.