

COP Program for Faculty and Staff

Our Commenting on Prompts (COP) Program offers faculty staff and writers the chance to have an experienced, undergraduate tutor and the director of the writing center read through prompts before you submit them to your students.

Because our tutors come from a wide variety of disciplines, we strive to pair undergraduate tutors with prompts that are in or relative to their discipline and genre knowledge. We acknowledge, however, that based on the wide variety of assignments we see, this pairing is not always possible.

What you can expect from COP:

- Attentive reading of your prompt by an undergrad and a colleague
- Feedback in a document about what your prompt is doing well, what we understand your prompt to be asking students to do, and any areas we think could be made stronger with more specificity, brevity, examples, or something else we clarify.
- A week or less turnaround time. (Therefore, please make sure to send in your prompt to ascanlon@iwu.edu at least 1 week before you want to pass it out to your students).
- A knowledge of the prompt when students then visit the writing center for assistance with the assignment.
- Revision suggestions you can use in other writing and prompt assignments you provide to your students.

FAQ about COP:

Will you look at my writing if it is not a prompt? Sure! We love working with all types of writers at all stages of the writing process. In fact, many of the tutors welcome the professional development opportunity to provide feedback to an instructor, especially if the tutor himself, herself, or themselves is studying in that discipline.

If I want feedback sooner than a week, can I get it? It depends. Sometimes we are slow, particularly at the start of the semester, so the turnaround time is much faster. However, depending on the length of your prompt, the availability of tutors and the director, and when you make the request, we might not always be able to get it back to you in less than a week.

May I request a specific tutor to look at my prompt? Absolutely. However, please note this request may change the response time if the tutor has limited availability for any reason. If you are going to request a tutor to look at your prompt, you may want to scan our schedule on [WCOOnline](#) first to see how many hours a week she, they, or he works so you know when to request the COP.

Does the program work? We have had a lot of positive feedback from professors in disciplines across IWU. So far, as of September 2019, we have commented on over twenty prompts in fields from sociology to Spanish. However, we have not yet seen the students' responses using these prompts but we anticipate stronger writing because of clearer directions. We know, furthermore, that there is a need for this type of work. For more on why that need exists, [see the Chronicle of Higher Education's article here](#).

Additional questions? Please direct inquires to Anna Scanlon at ascanlon@iwu.edu.