

First-Year Composition Program

# Rhetoric & Writing

Composition Program Newsletter

Spring 2018

## Welcome to the Newsletter

We hope that you enjoy the new Composition Program Newsletter. This newsletter contains information about programmatic growth, textbook updates, upcoming events, and more. The Composition Program has a lot packed into this semester, and you are a key part to the program's happenings.

Have a successful spring semester!

## THE COMPOSITION STUDIO

### A NEW SPACE FOR COLLABORATION

**The Composition Program** has officially opened its new studio space in campus building 51, room 147. Many of this semester's upcoming events will be held in this space, so stop by and explore! The Studio houses a reading and studying area along with the beginnings of the Composition Program's in-house resource library.

If you're not sure when to visit the space, come by during the WPA Coffee Hour on February 26 from 11-1 p.m. Dr. Bre Garrett will be hosting the coffee hour in order to create a space for conversation and questions. So come by to chat over coffee and composition.

## TEXTBOOK ADVANCEMENTS

### WHAT'S NEW

**The new edition** of the UWF Composition Programs custom textbook *Rhetoric and Writing* is currently in the works. With new student essays, a new design, improved table of contents, and a new public writing content, the Textbook Editorial Committee is excited to share the changes in the new edition coming this fall.

Want to be included in the next issue of the textbook? Email your ideas or chapter drafts to [composition@uwf.edu](mailto:composition@uwf.edu).

## PERSONALIZING RESEARCH WITH ONENOTE

### PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP

**Join us** on February 23 at 12:30 in the Yeager Library for the spring semester's first pedagogy workshop. Kyndall Turner and Hannah Trevino will be sharing their research and discoveries with using OneNote in the first-year composition classroom. The workshop will be focused on how to collect research and map the research process in a digital space.

## Spring Events

February 15  
GTA Meet & Greet  
Composition Studio  
12:30-1:30

February 16  
Librarian Professional  
Development Workshop, "4  
Tendencies Framework for  
Personal and Professional  
Success"  
Library Conference Room  
1:00-2:00

February 23  
Pedagogy Workshop,  
"Personalizing Research with  
OneNote"  
Yeager Library  
12:30-1:30

February 26  
WPA Coffee Hour  
Composition Studio  
11:00-1:00

March 2  
Composition Committee Meeting  
(Committee Members Only)  
Composition Studio  
12:30-2:00



Department of English  
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

## COMPCON 2017 PROCESS OVER PRODUCT

The **second annual CompCon** was held on Friday, November 17. The event drew students from a variety of first-year composition classes as they joined together to share their thoughts and ideas about research, brainstorming, drafting, and even procrastination. Dr. Susan James from the Department of Education delivered the keynote address entitled “Shoveling Sand in Order to Build Castles: The Importance of Process in Writing.” Her talk addressed the steps necessary for reading and writing, and she encouraged listeners to search for writing mentors to inspire and impact the personal process. Thank you to all who attended and made this event a success!

## GRADUATE TEACHER TRAINING LOWERING YOUR VOICE IN THE CLASSROOM

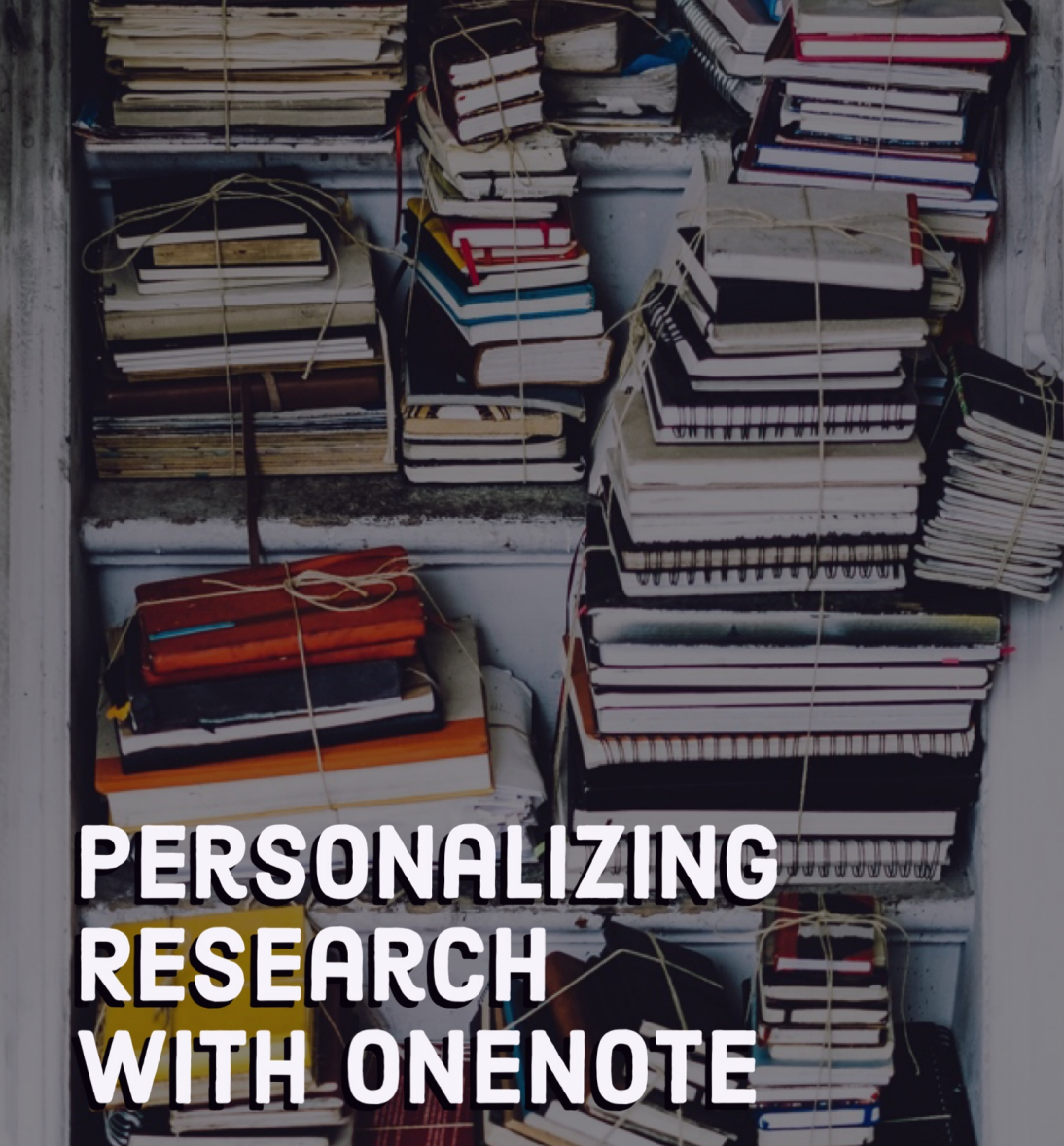
*by Terry Griner*

**Mobility and collaboration** are two of the most important concepts I learned after my first semester of teaching composition. During the first few weeks of the semester, my students spent most of their class time sitting quietly in their seats while I lectured. Without fail, none of my students would ask me questions about the lesson. I grew concerned: was the lesson unclear? When I asked if they understood, one of the students taking notes would usually volunteer to say that everything was clear, but the majority in the classroom spoke a different message whether they realized it or not: the classroom environment I had created wasn't engaging or motivating. I needed to change my approach.

So the next class period, I made my students move out of their seats, rearrange the desks, and talk to each other in small groups. Instead of a lecture, I provide focused questions related to the class reading assignments and had my students discuss the readings and come up with answers together. We ended class with whole-group discussions, and each small group shared what it had come up with. Such a simple change produced remarkable results. Students were not only responding to the reading but were also bouncing ideas off of each other and listening to new perspectives.

I remained present in each class and offered assistance and clarifications whenever necessary, but I allowed my voice to remain only a small part of the discussion so that my students could reflect on their conversations and engage with each other. I noticed a change in my students. They appeared more confident and relaxed during class than they had seemed before, and members of these small groups began to help each other with assignments both within and outside the classroom. By changing the class environment and making it more student centered, I enabled my students to share their ideas and interests and place more value in what happens in the classroom.





# PERSONALIZING RESEARCH WITH ONENOTE

Friday, Feb 23 from 12:30-1:30

The Yeager Library

Learn about reinventing research in a digital space and research mapping as a tool for invention, outlining, and drafting.

Speakers: Hannah Trevino & Kyndall Turner

Hosted by the UWF Composition Program

# Librarian Professional Development Workshop

*Harness the Power of Self-Knowledge!*

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*Justin McCoy*  
*Comp Instructor*

“Gretchen Rubin’s 4 Tendencies Framework for Personal and Professional Success”

*Where?*  
Library Conference Room

*When?*  
February 16, 2018  
1 – 2 p.m.

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**UWF** | Department  
of English

FEB. 26 | 11 A.M.-1 P.M. | COMPOSITION PROGRAM STUDIO

WPA

COFFEE

HOUR



STOP BY TO  
GRAB A CUP  
OF COFFEE  
AND CHAT WITH  
DR. BRE GARRETT,  
OUR WRITING  
PROGRAM  
ADMINISTRATOR

## GTA MEET & GREET

**Want to learn more about being a  
GTA or TA in the Composition Program?**



**FEBRUARY 15 @ 12:30-1:30**

**COMPOSITION PROGRAM STUDIO: 51/147**