

Questions to Ask at the Write Site

When you submit an assignment to the Write Site, we ask if you have any “specific questions/concerns.” Here are some examples of questions you can ask to help your writing consultant tailor their session to your needs. The list is not comprehensive--feel free to copy them into your submission form or use them as a starting point for asking your own questions!

Topic	Definition	Example questions
PURPOSE	The parts of the paper that back up your claim or contribute to your purpose.	Is it clear what I am trying to do in my paper? Do I make it clear early enough in the paper? Does my paper remain on-topic throughout?
THESIS STATEMENT	The sentence or two which clearly states your purpose or asserts your argument.	Is my argument strong? Is my thesis statement clear? Is it in the right place in the paper?
SUPPORT	The parts of the paper that back up your claim or contribute to your purpose.	Do I support my argument/thesis clearly in the body of the paper? Do I use enough/appropriate evidence to support my claims?
FLOW	The way the parts of your paper go together to make a cohesive whole.	Do my body paragraphs, intro, and conclusion fit together smoothly and logically?
STRUCTURE	Different sections of the paper, put in the right order -- introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion.	Is my paper structured logically? Are my topic sentences clear?
CITATIONS	Giving proper credit to outside sources is vital to maintain academic honesty.	Am I crediting my sources appropriately? Am I quoting too much/paraphrasing and summarizing enough?
MISC	Other strong questions to ask.	My professor says my audience is ____; am I writing to that audience? Is my tone appropriate/academic enough?
QUESTIONS TO AVOID	Questions we can't answer due to policy or ethics concerns.	Is this an A paper? What grade will I make? <i>Since your writing consultants are not your professors (and can't read your professors' minds), they can't make a judgment about what grade your paper will earn.</i>

