

To Whom It May Concern:

The Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) believes that Columbia College students would benefit from the creation of a place on campus where students may receive one-on-one consultations about their writing. We encourage you to create such a writing center.

Columbia College students are expected to write polished essays for a variety of classes in a variety of departments; however, even after taking Logic and Rhetoric, a significant number of Columbia College students still feel unprepared to do so. In an effort to aid these students, we propose the creation of a writing center in which faculty and well-trained students would review the style and structure of student papers with the authors of those papers. Such a center would supplement the instruction students receive in L&R and demonstrate the College's commitment to writing-education beyond the first-year.

Recently, we distributed a survey asking students if they would take advantage of such a service were it offered. Overwhelmingly, Columbia College students said they would: of the roughly 200 responses we received, over 75% answered in the affirmative. In addition, the results of our survey suggest that a large number of students would be willing to serve as writing fellows to other undergraduates. The creation of a writing center would enable those with strong writing skills to hone their talent while providing those in need of assistance the opportunity to receive it.

We are aware of the existence of writing center programs at peer institutions; for example, Brown's Writing Fellows Program is quite successful. Moreover, our neighbor across Broadway, Barnard College, operates a writing center that has undoubtedly helped students there improve as writers. As students and student leaders, we believe that Columbia students need and deserve a writing center of their own.

Professor Bizup, the new director of our undergraduate writing program, agrees that Columbia students would benefit from the creation of a writing center; in fact, his own plan to improve the writing skills of Columbia students involves both a reformulation of the Logic and Rhetoric curriculum and the creation of such a center. We, the CCSC, strongly support any effort on his part to garner funds for the purpose of creating a writing center on Columbia's campus. We look forward to working out the specific details of such a center in collaboration with Professor Bizup.

Respectfully yours,
Rohit Dixit, Secretary of the Board
Michael J. Novielli, Student Body President
Seth Caffrey, VP of Policy