

The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue

found at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

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LS 507
Dr. Campbell-Meier
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Criteria for Evaluating Ready Reference

- Purpose
- Use
- Authority
- Scope
- Format
- Treatment
- Special Features
- Cost

Special considerations include:

- Accuracy
- Up-to-date links and information
- Speed and ease of use

(Cassell and Hiremath 101-115)

Purpose and Use

“The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University houses writing resources and instructional material, and we provide these as a free service of the Writing Lab at Purdue. Students, members of the community, and users worldwide will find information to assist with many writing projects. Teachers and trainers may use this material for in-class and out-of-class instruction” (“Welcome to the Purdue OWL”).

Authority

The OWL is managed by Purdue University's Writing Lab.

The content is developed and maintained by a collaboration of professors, graduate students, and hired consultants.

(“OWL Fact Sheet”)

Scope

The OWL provides resources for teenagers and adults.

The articles cover:

- Common writing assignments across numerous disciplines.
- Style guides for popular citation formats, including MLA, APA, and Chicago style.
- Grammar and mechanics, including worksheets and teaching guides.
- Resources for English Language Learners.
- Advice and examples of resumes, professional letters, and other types of business writing.

General Writing

The Writing Process

What Do You Need to Write?
Invention
Prewriting Introduction
Prewriting Questions
More Prewriting Questions
Symptoms and Cures for Writer's Block
More Writer's Block Strategies
Stasis Introduction
Stasis and Research
Stasis for Teamwork
Thesis Statement Tips
Outline Components
How to Outline
Types of Outlines
Reverse Outlining
Beginning Proofreading
Proofreading for Errors
Proofreading Suggestions
Revising for Cohesion
Steps for Revising

Academic Writing

Rhetorical Situations
Elements of Rhetorical Situations
Aristotle's Rhetorical Situation
Text
Author and Audience
Purposes
Setting
Example 1
Example 2
Example 3
Conclusion
Strong Thesis Statements
Research and Evidence
Organizing Your Argument
Rhetorical Strategies
Logic
Using Logic
Fallacies
Logic in Writing
Does Logic Always Work?
Improprieties
On Paragraphs
Paragraphing
Essay Writing
Expository Essays
Descriptive Essays
Narrative Essays
Argumentative Essays

Verbs: Voice and Mood
Email Etiquette
Email Etiquette for Students
Common Writing Assignments
Understanding Writing Assignments
Argument Papers
Body Paragraphs
Rebuttal Sections
Conclusions
Writing a Research Paper
Genre and the Research Paper
Choosing a Topic
Identifying Audiences
Where do I Begin?
Exploratory Papers
Organizing an Exploratory Essay
Annotated Bibliographies
Annotated Bibliography Example
Annotated Bibliography Samples
Book Reports
Definitions
Essays for Exams
Book Reviews
Academic Proposals
Conference Proposals
Presenting Conference Papers
Journal Abstracts
Submitting the Journal Abstract
Book Proposals
Academic Proposals
Submitting an Undergraduate Journal Article

Mechanics

HOCs and LOCs
Sentence Clarity
Parts of Speech Overview
Sentence Clarity Presentation
Sentence Fragments
Transitions
Transitional Devices
Correcting Dangling Modifiers
Parallel Structure
Two-Part (Phrasal) Verbs (Idioms)
Separable Phrasal Verbs
Inseparable Phrasal Verbs
Intransitive Phrasal Verbs
Help with Capitals
Gerunds
Participles
Infinitives
Gerunds, Participles, and Infinitives

Verb Tense Consistency
Verbs with Helpers
Active Verb Tenses
Irregular Verbs
Commonly Confused Verbs

Punctuation

Punctuation Overview
Punctuation in Sentences
Sentence Punctuation Patterns
Independent and Dependent Clauses
Run On Sentences
Comma Slide Presentation
Commas: Quick Rules
Extended Rules for Commas
Commas After Introductions
Commas vs. Semicolons
Commas with Nonessential Elements
Apostrophe Introduction
Hyphen Use
Using Quotation Marks
Extended Rules for Quotation Marks
More Quotation Mark Rules
Quotation Marks with Fiction
Quotation Mark Exercise and Answers

Visual Rhetoric

Visual Rhetoric: Overview
Visual Rhetoric: Text Elements
Visual Rhetoric: Color
Visual Rhetoric: Images
Analyzing Visual Documents
Elements of Analysis
Organizing Your Analysis
Fonts with Purpose
Font Features
Font Personality
Additional Font Tips
Color Theory Presentation
PowerPoint Quick Guide
Before You Start
Design Principles
Practical Guides

Undergraduate Applications

Advice from Undergraduate Admissions Officers
Undergraduate Application Timeline
Undergraduate Applications: Entrance Exams
Starting Your Application & Asking for Letters of Recommendation

Format

- The website has a clean, simple aesthetic.
- Important or popular features are easy to locate in the left margin and top bar. A navigation guide is also included.
- Tabs at the top provide access to additional information about the site.



Online Writing Lab

[Purdue OWL](#) [Writing Lab](#) [OWL News](#) [Engagement](#) [Research](#) [Contact](#) [Site Map](#)

[General Writing](#) • [Research and Citation](#) • [Teaching and Tutoring](#) • [Subject-Specific Writing](#) • [Job Search Writing](#) • [ESL](#)

OWL Family of Sites > OWL

Search the OWL

[General Writing](#)

[Research and Citation](#)

[Teacher and Tutor Resources](#)

[Subject-Specific Writing](#)

[Job Search Writing](#)

[English as a Second Language](#)

[Purdue OWL Vidcasts](#)

[About the OWL](#)

[Giving to the OWL](#)

Suggested Resources

- [MLA Guide](#)
- [APA Guide](#)
- [How to Navigate the New OWL](#)
- [Media File Index](#)

Welcome to the Purdue OWL

If you are having trouble locating a specific resource, please visit the [search page](#) or the [Site Map](#).

The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University houses writing resources and instructional material, and we provide these as a free service of the Writing Lab at Purdue. Students, members of the community, and users worldwide will find information to assist with many writing projects. Teachers and trainers may use this material for in-class and out-of-class instruction.

In addition, we invite users to submit brief, writing-related questions to our [OWL Mail Tutors](#). You may also find the [Grammar Gang's blog](#) rather useful.

For more information about services for the Purdue University community, including one-to-one consultations, ESL conversation groups and workshops, please visit the [Writing Lab site](#).

Mission

The Purdue University Writing Lab and Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) assist clients in their development as writers—no matter what their skill level—with on-campus consultations, online participation, and community engagement. The Purdue Writing Lab serves the Purdue, West Lafayette, campus and coordinates with local literacy initiatives. The Purdue OWL offers global support through online reference materials and services.

Treatment & Similar Resources

- The Purdue OWL collocates information that would typically be scattered across textbooks, style manuals, and teacher's handbooks.
- While other writing centers (Amherst, UNC Chapel Hill, and U of Ottawa, for example) have impressive resources, none match the breadth and detail of Purdue's.
- In fact, many other writing resources include links to the Purdue OWL.

Special Features

- Provides email tutors for brief writing-related questions.
- Offers writing exercises that correspond with the articles.
- Links to the Purdue OWL YouTube channel.
- Presents development and usability research for those interested in developing an online writing resource.

Cost

- The Purdue OWL is available on the internet for free.
- The materials are protected by fair use, and may be used at no cost for educational purposes.
- In-person resources and online appointments, however, are only available to members of the Purdue community.

Specific Concern: Accuracy

- All external information is properly accredited. For example, information about citation styles include citations for the proper citation manual.

MLA Formatting and Style Guide

Summary:

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed.) and the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (3rd ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.

Contributors: Tony Russell, Allen Brizee, Elizabeth Angeli, Russell Keck, Joshua M. Palz, Purdue OWL Staff

Last Edited: 2012-05-09 07:17:57

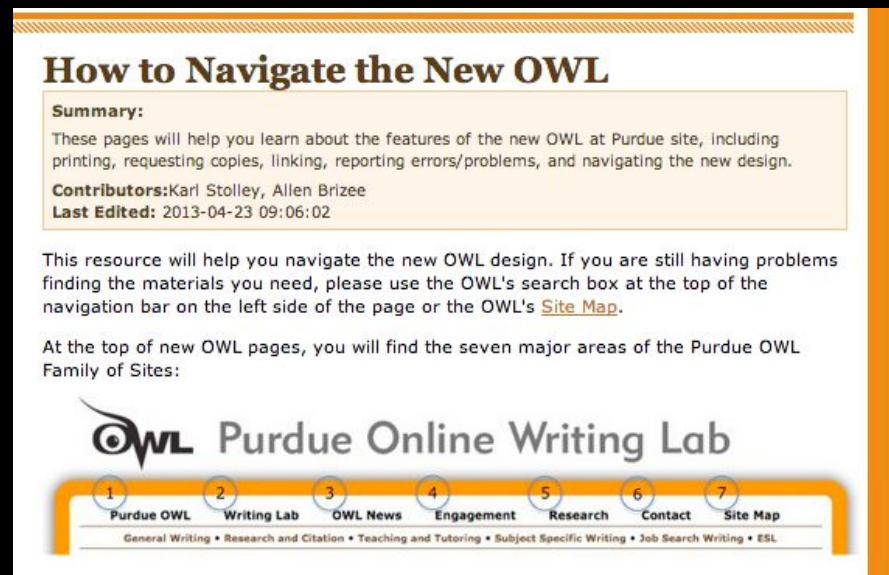
- The site provides an email address to which readers can submit suggested corrections.

Specific Concern: Up-to-Date Links and Information

- The site is regularly updated to ensure that all material is recent.
- All articles include “Last Edited” information.
- Style guides reference the most recent editions of the corresponding manual.
- The entire website recently received a complete overhaul to ensure all links worked and to make the site fully accessible to differently-abled users.

Specific Concern: Speed and Ease of Use

- The site provides a search field to conduct searches quickly.
- A navigation guide allows new users to orient themselves quickly.



How to Navigate the New OWL

Summary:
These pages will help you learn about the features of the new OWL at Purdue site, including printing, requesting copies, linking, reporting errors/problems, and navigating the new design.

Contributors:Karl Stolley, Allen Brizee
Last Edited: 2013-04-23 09:06:02

This resource will help you navigate the new OWL design. If you are still having problems finding the materials you need, please use the OWL's search box at the top of the navigation bar on the left side of the page or the OWL's [Site Map](#).

At the top of new OWL pages, you will find the seven major areas of the Purdue OWL Family of Sites:

OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab

- 1 Purdue OWL
- 2 Writing Lab
- 3 OWL News
- 4 Engagement
- 5 Research
- 6 Contact
- 7 Site Map

General Writing • Research and Citation • Teaching and Tutoring • Subject Specific Writing • Job Search Writing • ESL



poetry explication site:http://owl.english.purdue.edu



Web Videos Images Shopping News More Search tools

About 38 results (0.37 seconds)

[Purdue OWL: Writing About Poetry](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/615/01/)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/615/01/> Purdue University Apr 21, 2010 - When you put together a well-constructed **analysis** of the **poem**, you are not only showing that you understand what is there, you are also ...

[Purdue OWL: Poetry: Close Reading](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/751/01/)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/751/01/> Purdue University This resource will help you perform a close reading of **poetry** and begin developing ideas for writing papers based on close readings.

[\[PPT\] Close-Reading Poetry - Purdue Online Writing Lab](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/.../20090902102259_7...)

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/.../20090902102259_7... Purdue University Sep 2, 2009 - Close-Reading **Poetry**: An Overview. What is a Close Reading? A close reading is the careful, sustained **analysis** of any text that focuses on ...

[Purdue OWL: Poetry in Writing Courses](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/745/1/)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/745/1/> Purdue University Apr 21, 2010 - This handout discusses some terms and techniques that are useful to the beginning and intermediate **poet**, and to instructors who are teaching ...

[Purdue OWL: Writing a Literary Analysis Presentation](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/697/1/)

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/697/1 Purdue University This 14-slide presentation is designed to help teachers introduce writing literary analyses to their students.

[Poetry in Mid to Advanced Level Writing Courses - Purdue OWL](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owlprint/745/)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owlprint/745/> Purdue University by K Tanemura - [Related articles](#)

poetry explication

GO

About the OWL

OWL Information

Purdue OWL Fact Sheet

OWL Fact Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Help Using the Purdue OWL

Fair Use Policy

Purdue OWL Art

Giving to the OWL

Search Example 1

[Purdue OWL: Writing About Poetry](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/615/01/)

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/615/01/ ▾ Purdue University ▾

Apr 21, 2010 - When you put together a well-constructed **analysis** of the **poem**, you are not only showing that you understand what is there, you are also ...



Online Writing Lab

[Purdue OWL](#) [Writing Lab](#) [OWL News](#) [Engagement](#) [Research](#) [Contact](#) [Site Map](#)

[General Writing](#) • [Research and Citation](#) • [Teaching and Tutoring](#) • [Subject-Specific Writing](#) • [Job Search Writing](#) • [ESL](#)

OWL Family of Sites > OWL > Subject-Specific Writing > Writing in Literature > Writing About Poetry

Search the OWL

[Subject-Specific Writing](#)

[Writing in Literature](#)

[Literary Terms](#) ▾

[Literary Theory and Schools of Criticism](#) ▾

[Writing About Fiction](#) ▾

[Writing About Literature](#) ▾

[Writing in Literature \(Detailed Discussion\)](#) ▾

[Writing About Poetry](#) ▾

[Writing About Poetry](#) >

[Image in Poetry](#) ▾

[Poetry: Close Reading](#) ▾

[Giving to the OWL](#)

Writing About Poetry

Summary:

This section covers the basics of how to write about poetry. Including why it is done, what you should know, and what you can write about.

Contributors:Purdue OWL

Last Edited: 2010-04-21 08:27:54

Writing about poetry can be one of the most demanding tasks that many students face in a literature class. Poetry, by its very nature, makes demands on a writer who attempts to analyze it that other forms of literature do not. So how can you write a clear, confident, well-supported essay about poetry? This handout offers answers to some common questions about writing about poetry.

What's the Point?

In order to write effectively about poetry, one needs a clear idea of what the point of writing about poetry is. When you are assigned an analytical essay about a poem in an English class, the goal of the assignment is usually to argue a specific thesis about the poem, using your analysis of specific elements in the poem and how those elements relate to each other to support your thesis.

Search Example 1 (continued)

Search the OWL [GO](#)

Subject-Specific Writing

Writing in Literature

Literary Terms ▾

Literary Theory and Schools of Criticism ▾

Writing About Fiction ▾

Writing About Literature ▾

Writing in Literature (Detailed Discussion) ▾

Writing About Poetry ▾

Image in Poetry ▾

Poetry: Close Reading ▾

Poetry: Close Reading >

Giving to the OWL

Suggested Resources

- MLA Guide
- APA Guide
- How to Navigate the New OWL
- Media File Index
- OWL Exercises

Poetry: Close Reading

Media File: [Poetry: Close Reading](#)

This resource is enhanced by a PowerPoint file. [Download the free Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer](#)

Introduction

Once somewhat ignored in scholarly circles, close reading of poetry is making something of a comeback. By learning how to close read a poem you can significantly increase both your understanding and enjoyment of the poem. You may also increase your ability to write convincingly about the poem.

The following exercise uses one of William Shakespeare's sonnets (#116) as an example. This close read process can also be used on many different verse forms. This resource first presents the entire sonnet and then presents a close reading of the poem below. Read the sonnet a few times to get a feel for it and then move down to the close reading.

CXVI

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments. Love is not love

Which alters when it alteration finds,

Or bends with the remover to remove:

O no! it is an ever-fixed mark

That looks on tempests and is never shaken;

It is the star to every wandering bark,

Search Example 1 (continued)

The screenshot shows the Purdue OWL website interface. At the top, it says "Purdue OWL Writing Lab" and "General Writing • Research and Citation". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "OWL Family of Sites > OWL > Subject-Specific Writing". On the left, there is a navigation menu with categories like "General Writing", "Research and Citation", "Teacher and Tutor Resources", "Subject-Specific Writing", "Job Search Writing", "English as a Second Language", "Purdue OWL Vidcasts", "About the OWL", and "Giving to the OWL". Below the menu is a "Suggested Resources" section with links to "MLA Guide", "APA Guide", "How to Navigate the New OWL", and "Media File Index". The main content area features a search bar with the text "Search the OWL" and a "GO" button. Below the search bar is a vertical list of subject-specific writing categories: "Subject-Specific Writing", "Professional, Technical Writing", "Writing in Literature", "Writing in the Social Sciences", "Writing in Engineering", "Creative Writing", "Medical Writing", "Journalism and Journalistic Writing", "Writing in Nursing", "Writing as a Veterinary Technician", "Writing in the Purdue SURF Program", and "Giving to the OWL". At the bottom of this list is another "Suggested Resources" section. To the right of the list, the page title "Subject-Specific Resources" is displayed. Below the title is a tip: "If you are having trouble locating a specific resource please visit the [search page](#) or the [Site Map](#)." The main content area contains four sections, each with a title and a brief description: "Professional, Technical Writing" (helps with workplace documents), "Writing in Literature" (helps with literary terms and criticism), "Writing in the Social Sciences" (helps with social work and psychology), and "Writing in Engineering" (helps with engineering fields like civil and computer). The final section is "Creative Writing" (helps with poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction).

Subject-Specific Writing**Writing in Literature**

Literary Terms ▾

Literary Theory and Schools of Criticism ▾

Writing About Fiction ▾

Writing About Literature ▾

Writing in Literature (Detailed Discussion) ▾

Writing About Poetry ▾

Image in Poetry ▾

Poetry: Close Reading ▾

Giving to the OWL

Suggested Resources[-MLA Guide](#)[-MLA OWL Mail FAQs](#)[-APA Guide](#)[-APA OWL Mail FAQs](#)[-How to Navigate the New OWL](#)[-Media File Index](#)

Writing in Literature

These OWL resources will help you write about literature and poetry. This section contains resources on literary terms, literary theory and schools of criticism, as well as resources on writing book reviews.

Literary Terms

This handout gives a quick rundown of some important terms used when talking and writing about literature.

Literary Theory and Schools of Criticism

This resource will help you begin the process of understanding literary theory and schools of criticism and how they are used in the academy.

Writing About Fiction

This handout covers major topics relating to writing about fiction. This covers prewriting, close reading, thesis development, drafting, and common pitfalls to avoid.

Writing About Literature

This handout provides examples and description about writing papers in literature. It discusses research topics, how to begin to research, how to use information, and formatting.

Writing in Literature (Detailed Discussion)

These sections describe in detail the assignments students may complete when writing about literature. These sections also discuss different approaches (literary theory/criticism) students may use to write about literature. These resources build on the Writing About Literature materials.

Writing About Poetry

This section covers the basics of how to write about poetry. Including why it is done, what you should know, and what you can write about.

Image in Poetry

This section covers images as they appear in poetry and covers related terminology, definitions and origins of images, uses of images, and several exercises.

Search Example 2 (continued)

Subject Specific Writing

Professional, Technical Writing

Workplace Writers
Rhetorical Awareness
Applying User-Centered Design
Glossary and References
Participatory Design
Overview
Development Stage
Reading and Action Stage
Higher Order Concerns
Lower Order Concerns
Parallel Structure
Tone
HATS
The Basic Business Letter
Sample Letters
Accentuating the Positives
Audience and Purpose
Parts of a Memo
Format
Sample Memo
Four Point Action Closing
Grant Writing
Grant Writing: Specificity in Writing
Grant Writing: Clarity in Writing
Writing Report Abstracts
Reports, Proposals, and Technical Papers
Purpose and Audience
Organization and Other Tips
Revision
Revising for Clarity
Tailoring Language
Organization and Correctness

Reading Criticism
Building an Argument
Reading a Novel or Story
Reading a Poem
Reading a Play
Writing About Poetry
Image in Poetry
Images and Their Uses
Exercises
Poetry: Close Reading

Writing in the Social Sciences

Social Work Literature Review Guidelines
Writing in Psychology Overview
Rhetorical Considerations and Style
Experimental Reports 1
Experimental Reports 2
Tables, Appendices, Footnotes and Endnotes
Sources for More Information
APA Sample Paper: Experimental Psychology

Writing in Engineering

Engineering Reports
Introduction
Purposes and Types
Reports and Memos
Report Checklist
Report Sections
The Report Body
Abstracts and Executive Summaries
Mechanical Elements
Design Notebook
Project Charter
Travel Writing

Mechanical Engineering Writing
Enhancement Program

Memo Writing
90-Second Semicolon Vidcasts
Report Writing

Creative Writing

Fiction Writing Basics
Fiction Writing Basics 2
Fiction Writing Basics 3
Pattern and Variation
Pattern
Variation
Sound and Meter
Meter and Scansion
Poetic Feet, Line Length
Sound and Rhyme
Other Matters of Sound
Visual Patterning
Visual Variation, Exercises

Medical Writing

Introduction
Original Scholarly Article
Revised Article
Reporting on Conference Presentations

Journalism and Journalistic Writing

Introduction
AP Style
Media Ethics
The Inverted Pyramid
Writing Leads

Writing in Nursing

Three General Rules
Writing in the Field

Problems

- Because the site uses Google to search, rather than an internal search engine, it must depend on Google's algorithms to produce the desired results.
- While the sitemap is useful, it is unsearchable. The user must scan to find the appropriate category.
- The lack of controlled vocabulary results in the same ideas sometimes referred to by different words.

“The Writing Lab at Purdue houses 200 free writing resources and instructional materials for students, teachers, and trainers....There are sections geared to writing for specific disciplines (e.g. experimental report writing in psychology) and forms (e.g. writing about poetry). This site provides the nuts and bolts needed to jump start any writing project” (“RUSA Best Free Reference Web Sites 2009”).

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Price

Free, Free

Grades

Grades 9-12

Type

Website

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

SUBJECTS

Language & Reading:

- forming arguments
- presenting to others
- storytelling
- using supporting evidence
- writing
- writing clearly

See Common Core Standards

SKILLS

Self-Direction:

- academic development
- motivation

Communication:

- conveying messages effectively
- multiple forms of expression
- presenting

Purdue Online Writing Lab

Quality resources for literary teens, but won't motivate reluctant writers

LEARNING RATING:

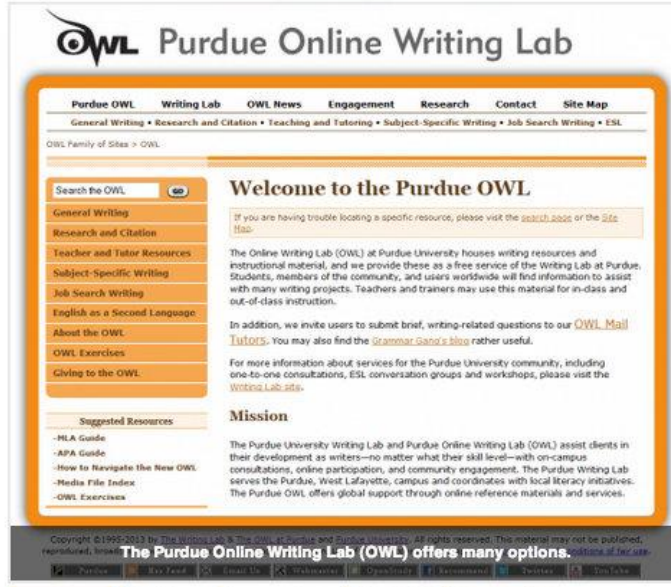


GOOD

TEACHER RATING:



GOOD



REVIEW

Pros:

The website provides a wealth of resources, from grammar and structure to the writing process itself, that can help improve overall writing.

Cons:

It doesn't offer any opportunities for interactivity or feedback.

Bottom Line:

Use this site as a robust resource for all aspects of the writing process, but don't expect an online community or interactivity.

Learning Dimensions:



Engagement

Suitable for teens who are already serious about improving their writing. There aren't any graphics or interactive resources to pull kids in, but it's still full of practical and valuable information for the self-motivated.



Pedagogy

The site hosts a wealth of informative content, so kids can engage in deep learning here if they want to. It's not adaptive or interactive, but it's a great, straightforward resource.



Support

Teens can email for help, but they have to send brief, pointed questions. The heavily text-based site lacks audio or significant accessibility features.

+ READ FULL REVIEW

This review of *Purdue Online Writing Lab* was written by [Lynne Glasner](#)

“By incorporating Purdue's outstanding OWL service as part of Pearson Writer we will offer an all-in-one, curated, accessible and personalized mobile resource that provides students with information and guidance on good writing and research fundamentals and managing the writing and research process...Information is kept updated so students can feel confident that the information they receive is current and available 24/7” (Jordan, qtd. in “Purdue and Pearson”).



Reviews (continued)

Works Cited

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