

# The Write News

Issue 2

“The Write News” is a means of keeping students abreast of important information and events related to writing, demonstrating how strong writing skills are necessary in nearly every profession, and showcasing our student authors. Look for future editions of “The Write News” each semester. Should you have an idea for future newsletters, please contact our newsletter editor extraordinaire, Ms. Trelani Duncan (duncant@savannahstate.edu).

## Why I Decided to Become a Blogger

By: Trelani Duncan

I started my first blog page three years ago and I immediately fell in love. I now recommend blogging to everyone. Below are the top five reasons why:

### #1: It further develops your critical thinking skills.

Whenever you update your status on Facebook or Twitter, then you are microblogging. Traditional blogging, on the other hand, is longer in length. You are expounding on your ideas versus briefly expressing them in a sentence or two. This process requires you to reflect, consider various perspectives, and think a little deeper. These critical thinking skills go beyond the blog and apply to your personal, academic and professional life.

### #2: It is a digital journey of self-discovery.

When I first started blogging, I wrote about everything: school, relationships, exercising, goals, spirituality, etc. As time passed, my blogs became a little more focused. My topics were centering on young women who wanted more than society’s expectations. Through this exploration, I discovered my purpose in life. As if that wasn’t enough, I was later contacted by a company with a similar focus, who wanted to pay me to blog on their website.

### #3: It assists in unearthing and honing your writer’s voice.

Just as no two people are just alike, no two people have the same writer’s voice or style. Having a voice makes writing less intimidating and more of a journey, regardless of the topic. However, unless you write often, you’ll never discover your writer’s voice. On the other hand, the more that you write, the more that you’ll hone your writing style. Blogging provides the perfect opportunity to do so.

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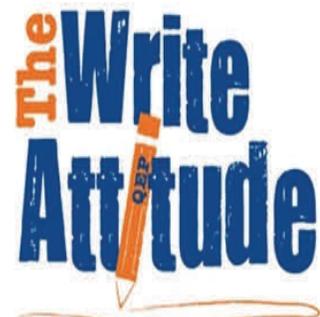
## WHAT’S A “QEP”?

“QEP” stands for “Quality Enhancement Plan.” The QEP is part of SSU’s accreditation and is a project that will enhance the quality of YOUR education.

Our project is entitled “The Write Attitude,” and our goal is to enhance student learning by fostering positive attitudes toward writing. Translation: We will create a campus culture that cultivates a positive attitude towards the practice of writing, which will, in turn, help you become a better writer.

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# Upcoming Events



- September 17th:** [Grammar Extravaganza](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- September 18th:** [Lunch and Learn Series](#): 12 p.m.—2 p.m.
- September 19th:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- September 20th:** [“Writing Against the Odds”](#) essay contest; entry deadline is at 5 p.m.
- September 24th:** [Grammar Extravaganza](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- September 25th:** [The Write Page](#) Book Club Meeting: 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
- September 26th:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 8th:** [Grammar Extravaganza](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 9th:** [The Write Page](#) Book Club Meeting: 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
- October 10th:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 15th:** [Grammar Extravaganza](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 16th:** [Lunch and Learn Series](#): 12 p.m.—2 p.m.
- October 17th:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 22nd:** [Grammar Extravaganza](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 23rd:** [The Write Page](#) Book Club Meeting: 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
- October 24th:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 29th:** [Grammar Extravaganza](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- October 31st:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- November 6th:** [QEP Movie Night](#): 8 p.m. –until
- November 7th:** [Essay Improvement Series](#): 11:00 a.m.—12 p.m., repeated at 3 p.m.-4 p.m.
- November 14th:** [Open Mic Write](#): 6 p.m. –until

## THE WRITE INTERVIEW : WITH MIRIAM HODESH



### **What does your job consist of at Gulfstream?**

As a Community Relations Specialist for Gulfstream, I create and cultivate education programs that bring awareness of Gulfstream careers to K-12 youth and teachers. My job consists of collaborating, communicating and igniting a spark in students to pursue careers in the aviation industry as well as science, technology, engineering and math, known as STEM.

### **How important is writing to your job?**

Writing has been an important communication tool in every job I have ever had. Currently, I use writing to communicate to students, teachers and fellow Gulfstream colleagues. I write emails memos, newsletters, blogs, commercials, invitations, letters, articles and grant applications. I have learned to write concise presentations and executive summaries of projects and proposals for members of our leadership team. Being able to capture thoughts and ideas on paper is extremely important.

### **What is your attitude toward writing?**

I have always struggled with writing. As a young student, I struggled with different learning abilities. I always had a writing tutor to help me compose papers and organize my thoughts. In college, I ALWAYS took advantage of the free writing lab. I learned at a young age to overcome any fear of asking for help. I have many strengths, and because writing is not one of them, I lean on those who enjoy editing and giving critical feedback to make my writing stronger.

I wanted to participate in this newsletter in hopes that some students reading this might relate to my story. If writing is not your thing, ask for help. I asked that the Senior Manager of External Communications for Gulfstream read over this article and am happy she could use her specific skill set to improve my message.

### **Has this always been your attitude toward writing? If not, what changed it?**

Having wonderful tutors changed my attitude about writing. One specific tutor in high school suggested I send my final term paper to an author I admired greatly. I had written a paper about a book he wrote, and when I heard back from him, it blew my mind! I framed the letter he wrote to me and have it hanging in my office.

### **What advice would you lend to students regarding writing?**

Writing is a powerful tool. The written word lasts longer than we do – so learn to use it to your advantage. Learn to ask for help. In my work world, I see a lot of emails. Emailing is a form of writing, and I take it seriously. Start now with writing proper introductory lines, complete sentences and signature lines. Pretend you are writing a hand-written letter; read it over and check the spelling before you send it. Write thank you notes, too. They are a dying form of communication that can really help you in your career and life!

# What is plagiarism?

(And why you should care!)

By: Trelani Duncan

## What is plagiarism?

Quoting or summarizing someone else's words without giving them credit is called plagiarism. Whether intentionally done or not, it's a form of stealing. It is the act of taking the [intellectual] property of another author and claiming it as one's own.

## What are the leading causes of plagiarism?

- Not fully understanding what plagiarism is in its entirety.
- Procrastination and poor time management.
- Fear of failure due to a lack of confidence in one's own work.



## How do you avoid plagiarizing?

- Know exactly what plagiarism is.
- Learn how to properly cite in the instructed format (APA, MLA, etc.).
- Give yourself enough time to research, learn, and write thoroughly.
- Have your work proofread by your professor, the [SSU Writing Center](#), or [Smarthinking.com](#).

## Why is the topic of plagiarism such a big deal?

1. It's unethical. It's taking someone else's hard work and not giving them credit. Although the information is accessible by the global community, it is still owned by its originator.
2. You're cheating yourself by refusing to take the time to learn the material and improve your writing skills. The ability to write well, think critically, and follow instruction will be critical in whatever field that you plan to work in.
3. Ignorance is not an excuse. Whether in undergrad, grad school, or on the job, eventually all cheaters will be caught. Any attempts to explain that it was a mistake or that you "didn't know" will be null and void.
4. Consequences include, but are not limited to: being reported to the VP of Academic Affairs, receiving an F for that assignment, receiving an F for the course, being placed on academic probation, and expulsion.



FB: [Quality Enhancement Plan for SSU](#)

Twitter: [@WriteSSU](#)

## RESEARCH SHOWS...

80% of corporations take writing into account when hiring salaried employees.

—Collegeboard.com

“More than 40 percent of responding firms offer or require training for salaried employees with writing deficiencies.”

—Collegeboard.com

Freshmen experiencing maximal-literary focus are 10-20% more likely to persist in college than students experiencing minimal-literary focus.

—Office of the IRPA

The fact that you're a computer science major or plan to be an astrophysicist doesn't exempt you from the need to write well; even the elephant trainer has to write letters to moving companies.

—J. Halberstam, author of *Acing College*

**Regardless of where you work, who you work for, or what you do, you'll be required to write. Be sure to represent yourself well.**

## QEP LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

The QEP Lunch and Learn Series provides an opportunity for students to connect with community leaders and local employers so that they can see how important writing is in the workplace.

Last semester, our speakers included:

- Miss J. Brunton: [The Role of Writing and Resumes in the Modern Business World](#)
- Ms. L. Harris and Ms. T. Duncan: [The Art of Writing and Self-Publishing](#)
- Mr. N. Chandler: [Writing in Customs, Border Protection, and Homeland Security](#)

The next Lunch and Learn Series takes place on **Wednesday, September 18th in the Student Union, Ballroom B, from 12:00 to 1:30**. For more information, please click [here](#).

Students are encouraged to take notes, ask questions, exchange business cards, and *network!*

Free lunches are provided to all students that attend.

## WHY I DECIDED...(CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

### #4 It diversifies your skills.

More and more companies, whether a small business or large corporation, are beginning to add blogging to their marketing plans and budgets. As a blogger, you will enter the workforce with this skill already under your belt. You'll be viewed as more valuable since your employer won't have to hire a third-party to do the job.

Furthermore, blogging offers several multimodal options. You can record and upload videos, images, voice recordings, set up newsletter subscriptions, and, most importantly, write on topics that will move people to act (and buy!).



### #5 It's free!

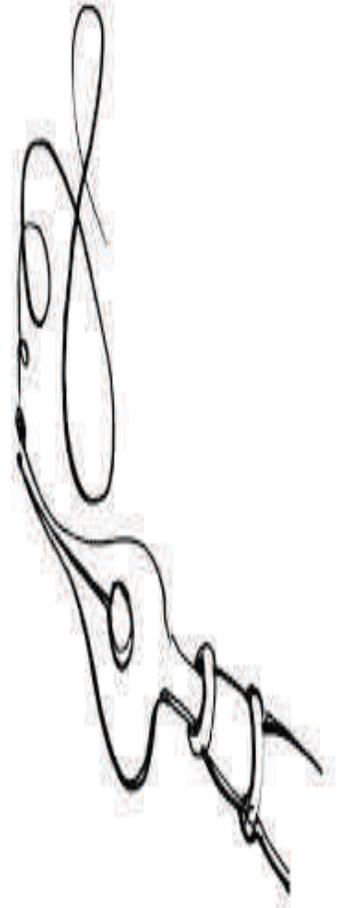
There are tons of free blogging websites. All you have to do is choose a site, a domain name, a theme/template, and start typing. Added bonus: it also serves as a free archive. You also have the option of sharing your articles with your friends on Facebook and Twitter or keeping it private.

So what are you waiting for? Start blogging today! Be sure to share your struggles, experiences, and thoughts on it with us.

[duncant@savannahstate.edu](mailto:duncant@savannahstate.edu)

## STUDENT'S CORNER: A POEM BY A'LEXIA JENKINS

Oops! My mother always told me  
About the birds and the bumblebees  
But more about a day when a special guy  
Would get on one knee, FOR ME?  
Never knew that the bumblebee's sting  
Would carry such a horrible feeling  
You see, to me, it felt like two snakes biting me  
Like I was a can of worms  
But at the end of the day, consider the lesson learned  
See I planted my seed, and realized God's plan for me  
It was to blossom, for I was simply a caterpillar  
Going through this metamorphosis  
And only God could assist with the pain  
That started the day I gave my goals away  
Now it's the day that I've finally become  
That pink and green butterfly  
There are ducks and geese, but when the hold I had my goals  
Started to loosen, then the maniac took control  
And put me in danger, but it was up to me  
To play my way, out of harm's way  
And in the end, I remembered the sin  
And the bee's sting, but I'll never forget  
The sweet and wonderful blessing it brought me:  
The honey



Please submit all writings for entry via email to [duncant@savannahstate.edu](mailto:duncant@savannahstate.edu). We accept poetry, book reviews, short stories, essays, articles, etc.

## QEP OVERVIEW

Savannah State University chose “The Write Attitude” as our QEP focus simply because writing is critical to being a well-rounded, educated individual. Writing strengthens your critical thinking skills, reinforces your knowledge of a topic, and allows you to express your unique viewpoint.

Generally, people who are good writers have a positive attitude about writing. It is our mission to see our students foster this attitude. We do this by working with all instructors to ensure many opportunities to improve your writing skills in all classes, regardless of discipline or major. We also plan great campus events to get you enthused to write outside the classroom, in co-curricular settings.

## MEET THE QEP TEAM



Dr. Lisa Yount is the QEP Director and Associate Professor of Philosophy. She has been with Savannah State University since 2007. She is a passionate teacher who loves to inspire students think about the world and their role and responsibility within it. She works with faculty to develop activities and assignments that use writing as a tool for learning in their classes, no matter what the discipline. Her job of overseeing “The Write Attitude” allows her to work with interesting and innovative teachers, staff, and students, who all strive to make our campus a place where writing is valued and understood as essential for the rigors of the classroom, success in the workplace, and an orientation toward life-long learning.



DeeDee Botticelli is Assistant to Director of the QEP. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from High Point University. Ms. Botticelli enjoys bringing her experience in Event Planning, Public Speaking, and her love of languages to help make a difference at Savannah State University.



Shante Smith was born in New London, CT, and raised in Camden County, Georgia. She is an alumnus of SSU having graduated in 2010 with a Bachelors of English Language and Literature. In her free time, she enjoys writing, journaling, poetry, and reading. Ms. Smith joined the QEP staff in August of 2012 as the Student Outreach Coordinator. She interacts closely with the student body as well as creates, plans, and hosts writing events for students.



Trelani Duncan is originally from Louisiana and is also an alumnus of SSU. She graduated in 2012 with a Bachelors of Political Science. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, writing, blogging, and travelling. Trelani joined the QEP staff in January of 2013 as the QEP Liaison.