



**AMERICAN
WRITING CENTERS:
FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE**

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IVLP Background

Sponsors:

- United States Department of State
- Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Institute of International Education
- US Embassy, Moscow

Aim: to establish Russian Consortium of Writing Centers



Moscow Samara
Tyumen Kazan
Irkutsk Saransk
St.Petersburg
Yekaterinburg

Writing Center Concept

- Writing Laboratories, Writing Clinics -
remedy to poor writing

Gradual shift in the view of writing instruction

- Academic Skills and Learning Centers

Enabling students

Peer tutoring philosophy: Socratic questioning,
indirect guiding

- University structure

Program Visits

□ Denver, Colorado

- **University of Colorado at Boulder**
- Boulder Writing Center
- The Program for Writing and Rhetoric (PWR) at the University of Colorado at Boulder
- The International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), a National Council of Teachers of English affiliate
- **Metropolitan State University of Denver**
Writing Center (MSU)

Program Visits

□ Indianapolis, Indiana

- **Purdue University**, West Lafayette, IN
- Purdue University Writing Lab and Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)
- The Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange (PLaCe)
- Purdue University, College of Liberal Arts, Russian Department
- Purdue University, College of Liberal Arts, Department of English
- Purdue Center for Career Opportunities
- **Butler University**, Writers' Studio
- Indiana Writers Center
- Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library
- Indianapolis Public Library, Central Library

Program Visits

□ **Boston, Massachusetts**

- **Harvard University**, Harvard College Writing Center
- Harvard University Press
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Writing and Communication Center (WCC)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, English Language Studies Program
- **Tufts University**, The Writing Fellows Program
- Tufts University, Office of Communications and Marketing
- **Boston University**, Educational Resource Center
- College of Arts and Sciences Writing Center
- College of Communication Writing Center

Diversity Within Unity

Writing Center	Year	Staff	Clients	Services and activities
The University of Colorado Boulder Writing Center	2004	30 teachers of writing	Students Faculty staff	Consultations, courses, promotion presentations, helping faculty with formulating assignments
Metropolitan State University of Denver Writing Center		Professionals grads	Students, including those with disabilities Community High schools	Consultations, tutorials, courses, writing groups
University of Colorado Denver Writing Center		professionals	Students Community (veterans, prisoners)	Online services. huge advert company, surveys, class visits, workshops, writing across curriculum program
OWL Purdue	1976	Grads (semester credit course)- 40% English majors - 60%	Students	Consultations, courses, E-tutoring, research coaching faculty, resources, drop-ins
Boston University Educational Writing Center	2001	8 employees 100 peer tutors 7-9 grads as writing fellows	Undergraduates mainly	writing assistants (College of Communication), courses for undergraduates, consultations, training faculty (Center of Innovations)
MIT Writing and Communication Center	1992	8 professionals	Anyone associated with MIT	Consultations, online materials
Harvard College Writing Center		25 undergrads grads	students	Drop-ins, consultations, resources
Tufts University, Office of Communication and Marketing		4 teachers, 50 undergrads, 26 grads	Students faculty	Drop-ins, consultations, writing groups, peer tutoring conference, research

Tutors

- Professional consultants, at least MA in writing and rhetoric
- English majors
- Students across disciplines
 - undergraduates
 - postgraduates
 - PhD students

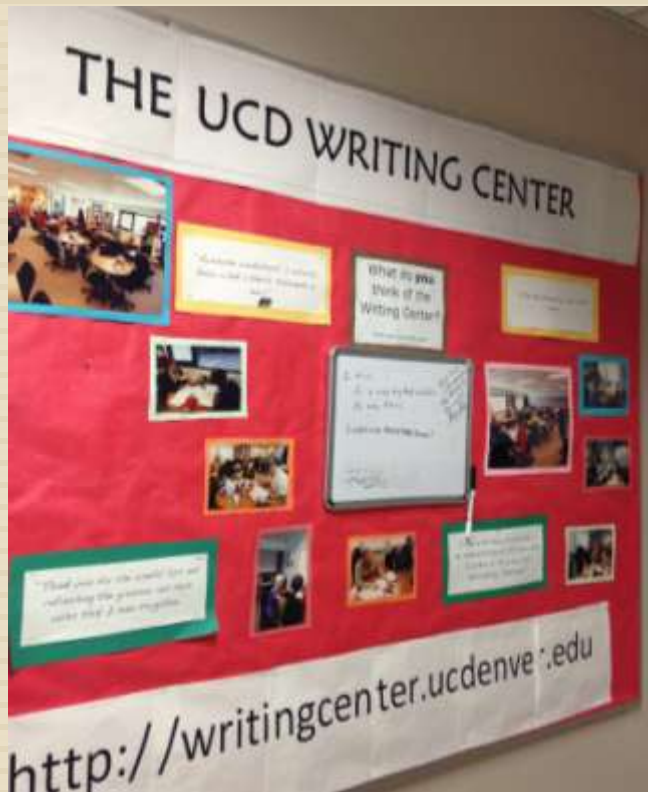


Clients

- Undergraduates
- Graduates
- Faculty and staff
- High schools
- Community, e.g. prisoners, veterans, disabled people



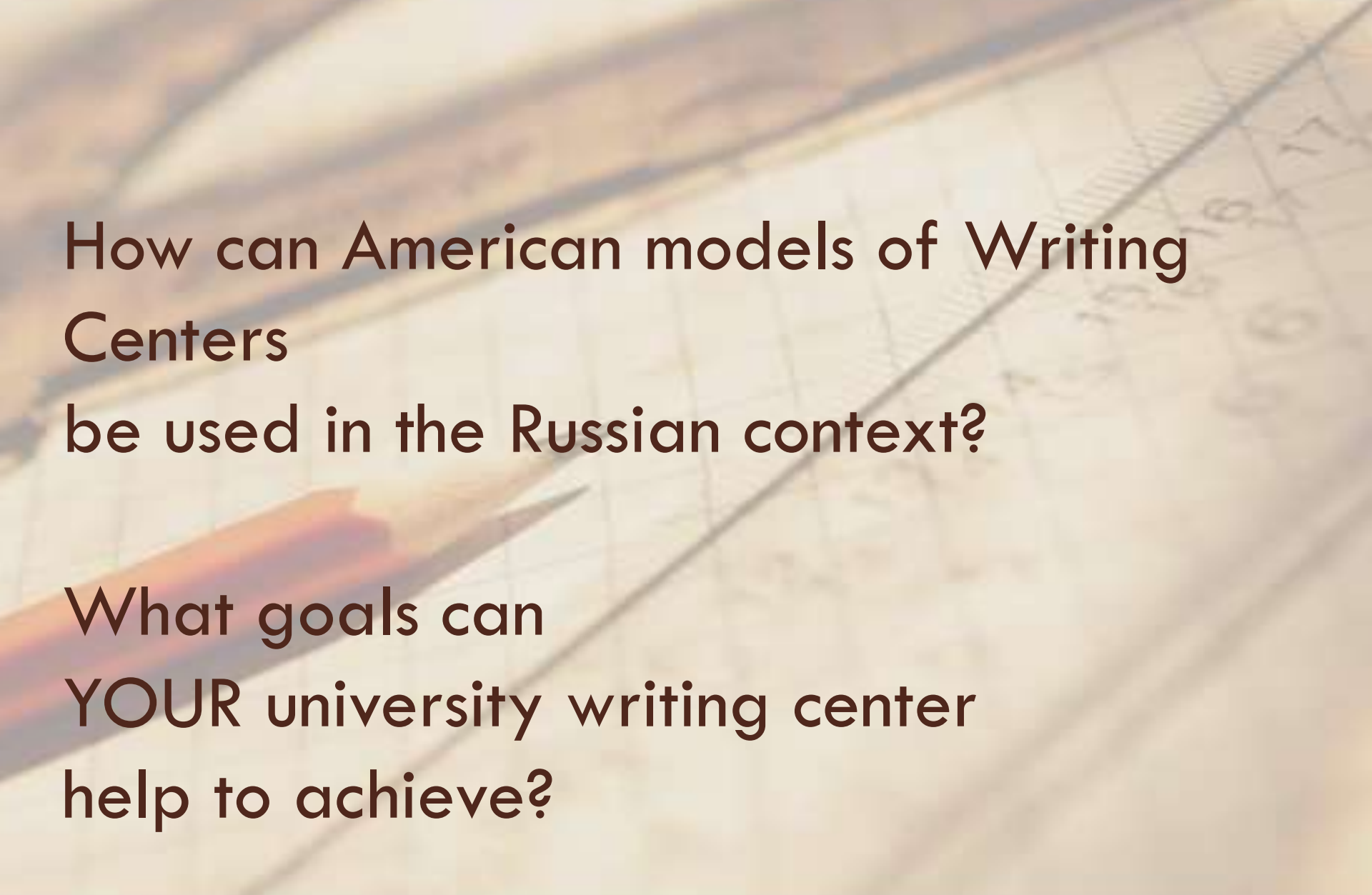
Services and Activities



- One-on-one consultations by appointment
- Drop-ins
- Courses and programs
- Workshops and tutorials
- Writing groups
- Teaching assistants
- E-tutoring
- Developing resources
- Research
- Coaching faculty
- Training tutors
- Peer tutoring conferences
- Class visits

Similar Features

- Funded by the university
- Thorough selection and training of tutors
- Credited course for tutors
- Tutors are paid
- Satellite locations
- Close cooperation with libraries
- Liaison with Writing Centers Associations
- Special software *wconline*



How can American models of Writing Centers
be used in the Russian context?

What goals can
YOUR university writing center
help to achieve?

Thank you

Questions? Comments?

References

- <http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter>
- <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Centers/writing/Pages/TheWritingCenter.aspx>
- <http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/>
- <http://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/the-writing-center/>
- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
- <http://www.harvardwrites.com>
- <http://universityrelations.tufts.edu/office-of-communications-and-marketing/>