Writing Studio — Workshop on Grad School Applications

In response to high demand, the Writing Studio will begin offering workshops on writing personal statements. Workshops will be held in April and October, and are designed for students who are applying for internships, study abroad opportunities, or any type of post-graduate work.

Students are encouraged to use workshop time to brainstorm, share and critique drafts with others, and polish final drafts.

Workshops will be led by the Writing Consultants, Mariah Steele and Nicole Jackson, and the first workshop will be from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18.

For more information, contact Mariah at msteele@cornellcollege.edu or ext. 4509.

Mariah and Nicole hope to build off the workshop’s success by investigating opportunities to offer additional workshops in the future.

Reserves via

If you require students to read articles that are available online in full-text, consider providing links to the articles through Moodle, Cornell’s course-management system. This will eliminate the need to place print copies on reserve in the library. Online access through Moodle gives your students anytime-anywhere access to your readings. When setting up links to articles in databases, it is essential to link to the persistent link to the record.

For assistance, see Annette Beck in the Academic Media Studio in the library — Extension 4125.

Shadowing a Librarian...

Shadowing a librarian at Cole Library’s reference desk. Examining rare documents in Special Collections at the University of Iowa main library. Talking with librarians from all over the world at a library conference in Quebec. These are some of the experiences Cornell students have had earning academic credit during an internship at Cole Library. Since 2003, Cole librarians have supervised eight Cornell student internships.

Most of these interns have gone on to pursue graduate study in library and information science. Although each internship is tailored to fit the interests of individual students, most interns read a wide variety of articles and books, shadow librarians at Cole Library, interview librarians throughout eastern Iowa, lead discussion of a scholarly article with Cole librarians, and keep extensive journals about their experiences and readings. Keri Weston, our first intern, said this about her internship:

“Although I have worked in libraries in the past, I learned much more about the philosophy and even more behind the scenes information than I knew before.”

What’s new in Cole Library?

The Academic Media Studio has some changes on the website

The Academic Media Studio web page has been updated to include a few new links for faculty. Emerging Technologies, Project Showcase, and Broadcasts are all new areas. Just go to the Library Home Page, Look for the Academic Media Studio link and check out the navigation bar Instructional Technology for Faculty.

Emerging Technologies will highlight a few new technologies each block.

Project Showcase will highlight a few technology projects that the Academic Media Studio has helped with and may spark some ideas for your classes.

Broadcasts are just that. Sometimes it will include simple audiocasts with a link to a “How do I do this or that.” Other times it may include a short videocast.

Check back often as these pages will be updated each block.
Technology Tips - What are RSS Feeds?

RSS means Really Simple Syndication. What? Can something be really simple? The answer is yes, it actually can be. RSS basically means that you download and install an RSS reader (see below for some examples). Anytime you see RSS on a web page, you can click on that RSS button and copy the corresponding URL. Then, you simply add that URL to your reader. When you have your RSS reader open, it will show any updates that have been made to the web page that you have added. It is much like using email. When you receive a new email, the email comes to your box in boldface type. An RSS reader works much the same way.

Many colleges use RSS to allow prospective students, parents, and alumni to get automatic updates to news and events that are happening at the college.

Currently, Cornell doesn't have RSS feeds activated on the server, but will as soon as the Content Management System (CMS) and web redesign are in place. When Cornell has the RSS feed activated, others will be able to add Cornell to their RSS readers.

You, however, can use RSS readers now and get started using them for some of your favorite websites.

To read all about RSS, please go to the following site:

The Academic Difference:
Imagine your students studying about current news events. Have students download an RSS reader in their residence hall rooms and find websites that you believe are reliable and consistent. Have them add the URL to their RSS reader and they will see updated information throughout the day.

See the Emerging Technology page for more with the Academic Media Studio page in the Library for more information.

Elmo Document Projector in AV Services
Audiovisual Services has a document projector available for check out. This projector allows you to project images from two-dimensional material. If there are illustrations in a book, or graphs or tables in a print document that you want to show students, this is the tool for you. The projector can be used in any of the tech classrooms on campus.

To arrange for delivery to your classroom, or for instructions on use, contact the Audiovisual Department, Matt Zhorne, Extension 4261.

Librivox and Naxos Music
The library has been excited this year to bring more audio selections to you, including music through Naxos Digital Services and audio books through LibriVox. We are featuring Naxos Digital Services on the Cole Library homepage. LibriVox is accessible via the Mount Vernon Public Library homepage.

Cole Library subscribes to three Naxos services: Naxos Music Library, Naxos Jazz Library, and Naxos Spoken Word Library. Naxos Music Library features 130,000 classical tracks (standard and rare), while Naxos Jazz Library contains close to 20,000 tracks representing over 500 artists from labels such as Prestige, Debut, Riverside and Stax.

These recordings are available on and off campus, and can be used to create your own play lists online to share with your students through Moodle. Similarly, LibriVox audio books (or chapters from these books) can be downloaded and linked to Moodle for quick access. It is also possible to record your own audio books on CDs or in MP3 format. Consider the power of the spoken word when emphasizing material from one of the classics—let the characters come to life in your classroom.