

Writing for Growth & Advocacy Badge



In this badge, you'll learn about how professionals use writing to foster their own growth and to influence change – and you'll experiment with those approaches yourself. You will gain a few essential skills and an understanding of how your college writing experiences connect to your professional future. Through a blend of information, activities, and reflection, you see how a rich approach to our writing can help us to move from passion to action, in our personal, professional, and activist roles.

This badge does *not* require any specific background in writing or communication, and you'll work towards your own interests and goals. Students in any class year can relate to the information and activities in this badge. It should help you to continue growing as a writer, wherever you are today in that path. Peers who are experienced writers will co-facilitate each workshop with Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, writing teacher and director of the Writers' Block.

Participants are able to:

- Understand some of the ways that professionals and advocates use writing to influence growth and change – whether personal, social, or professional.
- Increase your awareness of specific tools, approaches, and resources related to effective writing.
- See how to improve your own writing as a step in your pre-professional growth.

Requirements for Completion:

- **Complete five required workshops. Each workshop blends information about using writing as a tool to move from passion to action – in personal, professional, and activist roles. In each workshop, participants will then apply what they learn through writing activities.**
- **Search for the following workshops on Get Involved events page to see when they are available. Normally, each workshop is offered twice in one week during spring semester.**
 1. From Freewrite to Final: How Professionals use the Writing Process
 2. From Passion to Action: Writing as a Tool for Change
 3. Feedback and Fixes: Ways of Responding to Writing
 4. Stand Out in the Job Market: How to Share your College Writing
 5. Self-Editing Workshop: Hands-on Practice in Polishing your Writing. (Bring or have access to at least one of your completed college writing assignments, so that you can practice reflecting on and self-assessing your work for others outside the college.)
- **Written Exercises & Reflections:**
 - Each workshop includes writing exercises that let you apply what you're learning in the workshop.
 - Each workshop will end with a written reflection to help deepen your learning and set your own goals.
 - Work will be uploaded on the Writers' Block Moodle site, with feedback provided.
 - Students who complete all of the activities during the workshop and a brief post-session reflection will earn credit towards the badge.
- **Optional Personal Portfolio:** Workshops Four and Five will introduce you to the process of preparing and sharing your writing. After the workshops, Writers' Block staff can assist you if you want to prepare and share a few writing samples and improve your personal portfolio skills. We encourage you to continue working on your portfolio with us: it's a life skill that's satisfying, motivating, and useful.

For more information about the Writing for Growth & Advocacy Badge, please contact

Dr. Jennifer Mitchell at mitchejk@potdam.edu.

If you are interested in enrolling in this badge, please email Ruth Policella @ policera@potdam.edu