Tutoring Writing in the Disciplines: Earth and Environmental Sciences
By Juliette Bateman, Matthew Elliott, and Sydney Neugebauer

Introduction

★ What is TWID?
- Using Earth and Environment specific writing practices, genres, and conventions in order to best support the works of E&E students
★ Tutoring ranged from undergraduate 200 level courses, such as geography, to graduate 500 level courses including forest ecology and aquatic optics

Goals of TWID
★ Provide discipline specific support for students in upper level classes

Goals for Tutors
★ Launch Earth and Environment writing tutor program
★ Introduce professors to TWID
★ Train first class of writing tutors
★ Encourage attendance at tutoring sessions
★ Increase department-wide confidence and competence in writing

Observations & Results
★ Students from many different courses from level 200-500
★ 64 hours of tutoring
★ Average session rating: Excellent
★ “[The tutor] really helped me in the areas that I needed it most”
★ Materials generated in the course:
  - BEAT/BEAM presentation
  - Promotional flier
  - Reading scientific papers handout
  - Interview with professionals
  - Observation of other tutors

Methodology

★ Spread awareness through in-class visits and fliers distributed to E&E community
★ In-class discussions:
  - Tutoring ESL students
  - Citation methods
  - Disciplinary tutoring vs. general writing
  - Finding and evaluating sources
★ Generate supplementary materials:
  - Reading and Writing for research
  - Promotional fliers

Summary & Conclusions

In our eyes, this semester was a success! Discipline specific tutoring allowed for less time spent understanding the concepts in a paper and more time focused on improving the writing of the student.

Looking forward, the program can improve by coordinating with classes to hold tutoring during times writing assignments are predominantly assigned. The skills we learned throughout this process have helped us grow as teachers, writers, and leaders.

We’d like to give a huge THANK YOU to David Shawn for making all this happen, and Matt DiCintio for organizational support!