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Supporting lifelong writers: The Graduate Writing Fellowship Program

"Graduate student writing is high stakes. From here to a career. Schooled in theories and methodologies, the writer feels compelled to [write the perfect paper] but ends up searching for a place just to enter the conversation" (Ellis, 2005, p. 121). In this oral presentation, the Graduate Writing Fellowship program located at a public university in the northeastern United States will be described. The evolution of this peer-assisted writing program will be presented from its original focus on writing assistance in specific academic disciplines to now offering writing support for all graduate students. Quantitative and qualitative data reflecting the successes and challenges of this graduate writing program will be discussed, along with the research base that supports the efficacy of this program. Materials employed in these tutoring sessions will be reviewed. Producing lifelong writers who are successful in both the university classroom and in the workplace is the ultimate goal of this peer-assisted writing program. At the conclusion of this talk, the presenter will invite the audience to discuss how aspects of this program can be employed in the teaching of writing at all grade levels.