The Ohio State University Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing (CSTW), a multi-faceted center with distinct, but complementary components, focuses on ways to improve the quality of the written word and ways to teach it more effectively. Its programs serve a wide variety of constituencies, both on and off campus, while emphasizing student needs.

AT A GLANCE

CSTW PRINCIPLES:

- Writing, reading, and speaking are complex intellectual activities crucial for participation in academic, professional, and public life.
- Students and other writers need support to negotiate the complex rhetorical demands of writing in a variety of settings and media.
- CSTW promotes an understanding of multiple literacies in a global society.
- Partnerships with youth, teachers, and researchers create opportunities for networking, collaboration, and scholarship.

“One of our major goals is to provide a strong student voice and create powerful programs that support students in a variety of ways.”

(Dickie Selfe, Former Director, CSTW)

Fostering excellence among writers and teachers of writing
DIGITAL MEDIA

Ways in which CSTW embraces the challenges and opportunities of digital media:

• interviews authors for Writers Talk, a broadcast and Internet show

• Organizes and sponsors the annual Digital Media in a Social World Conference to promote faculty awareness of excellent digital teaching techniques and student learning in a number of ways

• Records and archives the digital storytelling of Columbus residents in the Hilltop area, in conjunction with the Ohio State Library’s Knowledge Bank

• Disseminates writing knowledge online

• Trains students to support humanities instructors’ use of technology through the Student Technology Consultant (STC) program

• Provides resources for instructors through a wiki on teaching writing and assessing learning

• Sponsors Pod Camp Ohio, about public technologies for Internet communication

CSTW PROGRAMS

DIGITAL MEDIA AND WRITING

Gives students skills and experience in producing and exploring new media. Students do actual work on collaborative, team-based projects: Free Student Teaching Consulting Service; Writers Talk; Digital Media in a Social World Conference; Sponsor PodCamp Ohio, public technologies for Internet communication.

MINOR IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Prepares students to address the various kinds of writing needed in today’s digital-age workplace, gain meaningful hands-on workplace experience, and add valuable credentials to their resumes. CSTW’s minor in professional writing is a national model program.

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Supports teachers from all disciplines who use writing in their teaching; collaborates to develop innovative approaches for writing instruction; explores best practices and shares research on how writing can be a powerful tool for teaching and learning; finds ways for people to discuss work to understand its value.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

CSTW outreach fosters literacy in the community through projects in public schools and community centers. The focus is on writing and literacy, understanding that people write throughout their lifetimes and in a variety of settings and that being a skilled writer can help anyone achieve their goals and participate more fully in public life.