

# SLP Writing Center



# Agenda

- Why
  - ◆ Timeline
  - ◆ Core Beliefs
- Coaches
  - ◆ Training
  - ◆ Current coach responsibilities
- Implementation Plan
  - ◆ Website
  - ◆ Sign-ups
  - ◆ Goals and Challenges



# Timeline

**2022-  
2023**

Language Arts and Literacy Design Team recommends a student-run writing center at the high school similar to other metro schools.

**2022-  
2024**

Construction ends and presents a dedicated space for a writing center.

**2025**

Adele Welch trains students as writing coaches in the Learning Lab.

**Spring  
2022**

Learning Lab dissolves. Teachers take over training coaches and try to implement during Action Wednesday and Orioles Nest.

**Spring  
2025**

SLPHS Writing Center is born with a dedicated space and vision.



# Core Beliefs

1. Writing is a process.
2. All writers benefit from feedback, regardless of skill level or experience.
3. Writing improves with practice and individualized feedback.
5. Writing is a tool for learning *and* a way to demonstrate learning.
6. Collaboration among peers is an effective mode of learning.

# Coaches



# Process

## Application

- Essay
- Filling out an application

## Over the Summer

- Reading chapters from *The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors*
- Attending one or two trainings in August

# Training

## Writing Beliefs/Writing Process

**Writing Process**

Which part of the writing process is most difficult for you? Which part is your strength?

**Prewriting**

- Understand assignment and establish purpose and audience
- Brainstorm, freewrite, cluster/mindmap, or research to generate ideas/thoughts
- Organize or outline

**Drafting**

- Create an initial draft

**Revising/Editing**

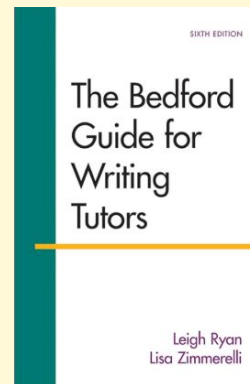
- High Order Concerns
- Low Order Concerns

## Purpose of a Coach and Role Play

**Purpose of a Writing Coach**

- **Be an ALLY:** You are sympathetic, empathetic, encouraging, understanding. You keep anything the writer might share with you confidential.
- **Be a NAVIGATOR:** You describe progress and process in a bigger way that the writer might see, giving a student a sense of how they are moving forward while negotiating the teacher's expectations.
- **Be a COACH:** You instruct and direct from the sidelines, noticing what is going well and what needs improvement. You suggest ways of accomplishing tasks.

## Summer Reading



# Writing Conference Map

Use this map as a guide, not a checklist, as you grow your unique coaching style. Remember, your goal is to help the writer grow as a writer, not just improve the writing!

## 1. Grounding Questions

Notes

- What is your name? How are you?
- Tell me about the assignment and how you're feeling about it.
- What has been your process so far?
- What is your purpose? Who is your audience? How did you organize this?
- What do you want feedback on?



## 2. Read aloud

Notes

*Ask the writer to read their work aloud  
and assure them they can take their time.  
Practice active listening.*



## 3. Guiding Questions

- What changes do you want to prioritize?
- When reading out loud, which parts stuck out to you (good or bad)? Why?
- You said you wanted to work on \_\_\_\_\_. Can you point out an example of that?
- What I'm hearing you say is...
- My understanding is \_\_\_\_\_. Is that correct?



## 4. HOC and LOC Revisions

- What should the writer address?
- What if we...
- Do you see what I'm seeing here?
- How does this change sound to your writing voice? purpose?

Notes

**5. Thank the writer! Complete a Writer Form and a Coach Form on the Writing Center Website.**



# Training



**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH...** *Writing?*

**SLPHS WRITING CENTER**

**OUR STUDENT COACHES CAN HELP WITH:**


- Research Papers
- Fictional Writing
- Book Reports
- Essays
- Formatives/Summatives
- And any stage of the writing process!

**TUESDAY 3:30-4:30pm**  
**WEDNESDAY 3:30-4:30pm**  
**THURSDAY 3:30-4:30pm**

**WIN Time**

**COME IN WE'RE OPEN** Located in LINK Classroom 3

Scan this QR code to book an appointment!



sites.google.com/apps.slpshschools.org/slpsh-writing-center/home

SLPHS Writing Center

Our Coaches Book an Appointment Writing Tips

Welcome!

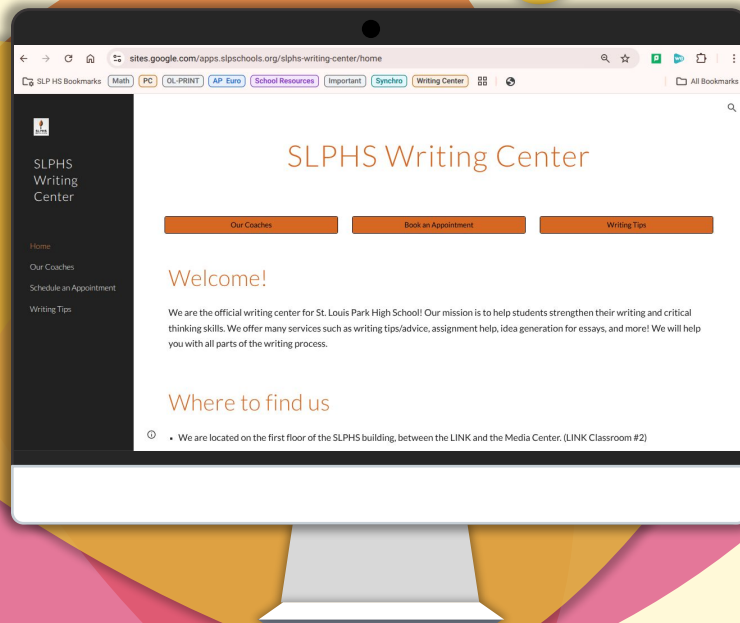
We are the official writing center for St. Louis Park High School! Our mission is to help students strengthen their writing and critical thinking skills. We offer many services such as writing tips/advice, assignment help, idea generation for essays, and more! We will help you with all parts of the writing process.

Where to find us

- We are located on the first floor of the SLPHS building, between the LINK and the Media Center. (LINK Classroom #2)

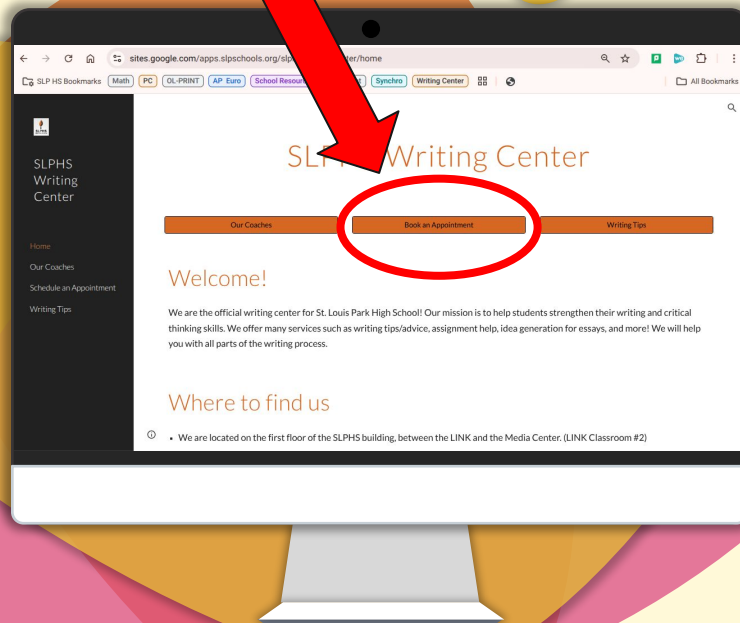
# What our Website Looks Like:

This is the homepage, where you have access to many different things!



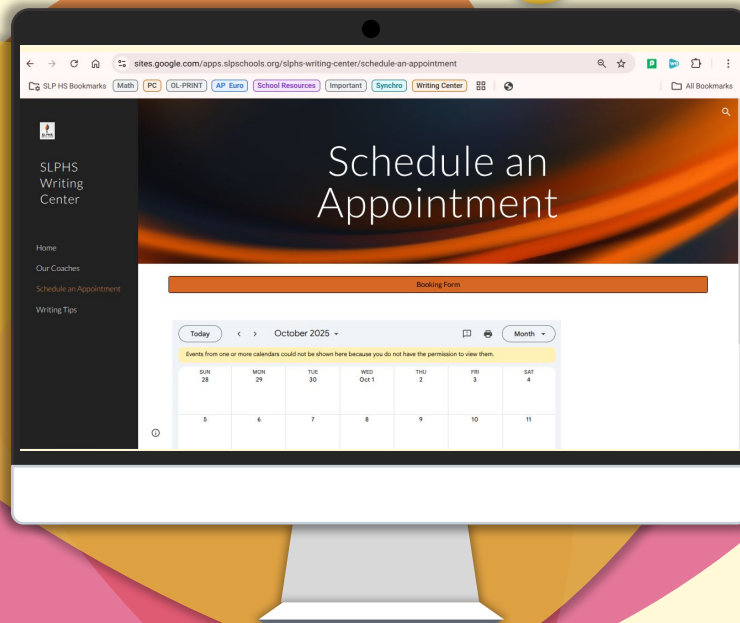
# What our Website Looks Like:

If you click on the “Book An Appointment” Button, you’ll be taken to this screen:



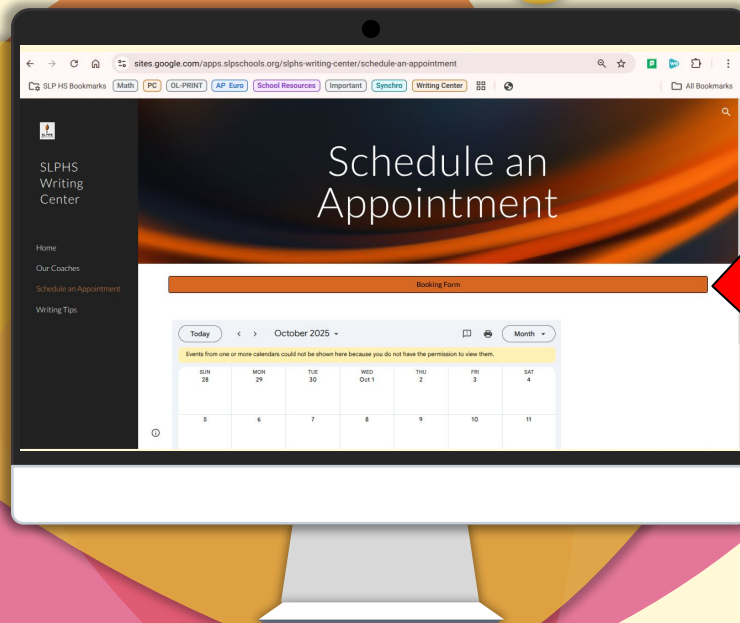
# What our Website Looks Like:

Now, you click on the “Booking Form” button, and that will take you to the Writing Center google calendar.



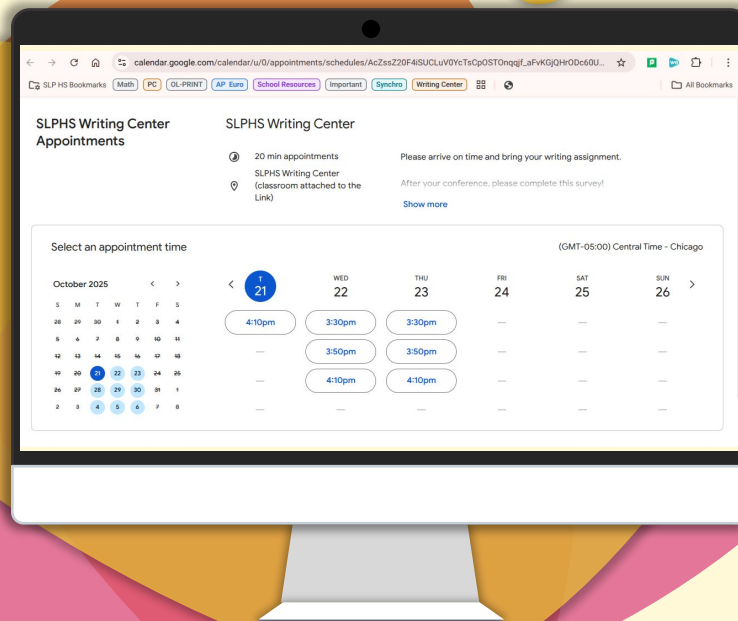
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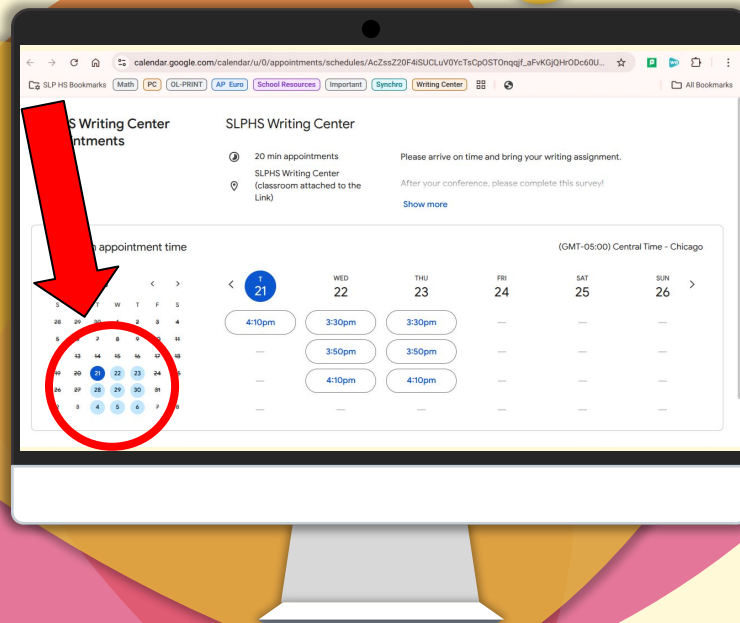
# What our Website Looks Like:

Here is the screen you should be on at the moment. This new tab will show you the days and times you can select an appointment!



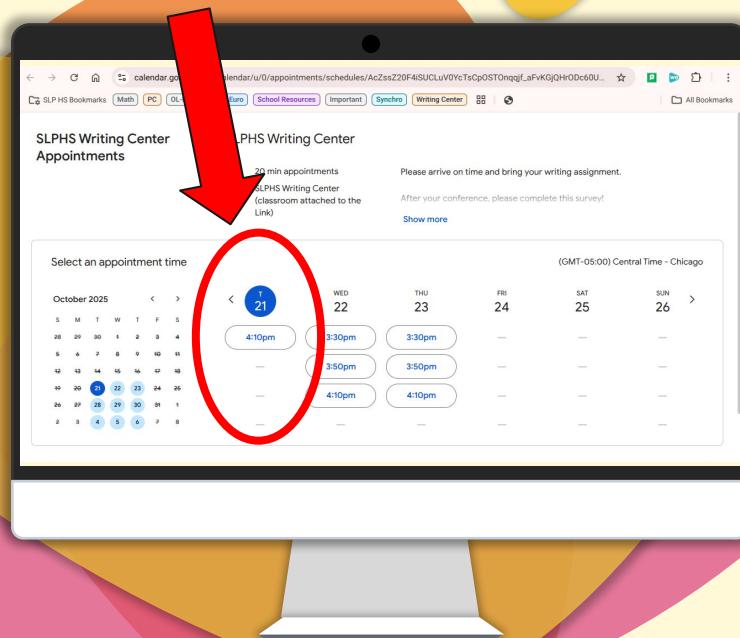
# What our Website Looks Like:

Now, you're going to go to the *left* side of the screen and select the day you'd like to look at for appointment times.



# What our Website Looks Like:

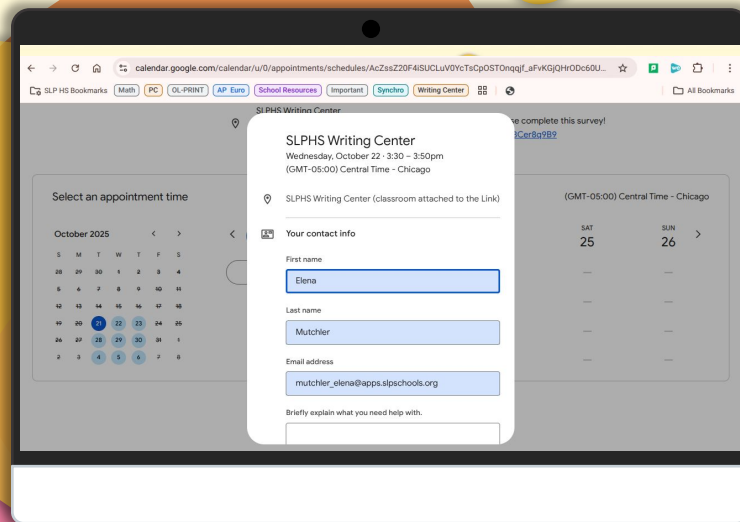
After you've selected a day, you can move to the *right* side of the screen and choose the time that works best for you!





# What our Website Looks Like:

Since you've selected a time, you now will fill out this brief form on confirming who you are and why you're booking an appointment, and hit "Book." (You'll have to scroll down)



SLPHS Writing Center

Wednesday, October 22 - 3:30 - 3:50pm  
(GMT-05:00) Central Time - Chicago

Select an appointment time

October 2025

First name  
Elena

Last name  
Mutchler

Email address  
mutchler\_elena@apps.slp schools.org

Briefly explain what you need help with.

Briefly explain what you need help with.

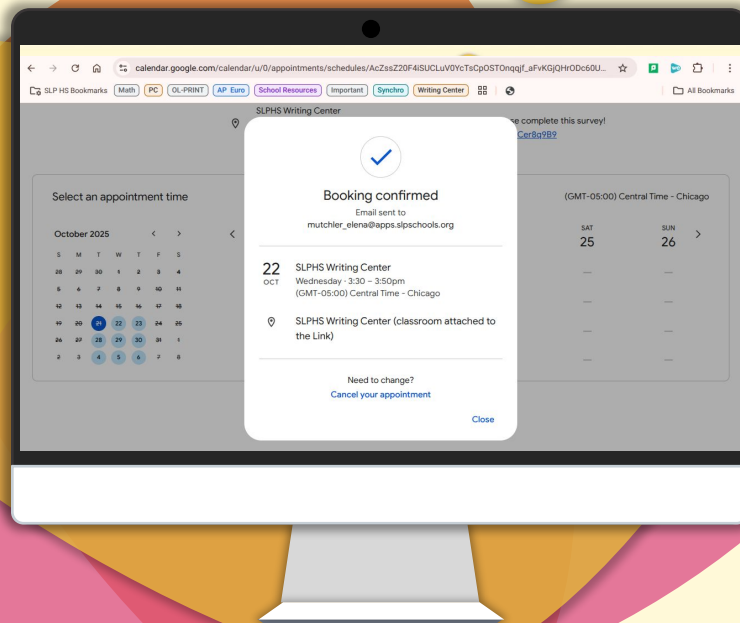
Optional

Cancel

Book

# What our Website Looks Like:

Congratulations! You've booked a writing session with the writing center! If you see this screen, then you're good.





# Future

## Challenges:

- Student outreach
- Sustainable funding for materials, conferences, director compensation, etc.
  - ◆ \$1,500 of this will be covered by an SLP Community Foundation grant this year

## Goals:

- Build a writing center culture at SLPHS
- Provide ongoing training for all coaches and attend trainings through SSWCA
- Create student coach leadership roles



SECONDARY SCHOOL  
WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION

