The Application of the Creative Writing Workshop in the Writing Center

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Creative writing pedagogy is dominated by a single strategy and a single venue: the workshop. This process-oriented, peer review approach goes beyond traditional editing and correction to focus on form, content and clarity in writing. However, the creative writing workshop is applicable beyond teaching creative writing. I will argue that in at least two ways, creative writing workshops can be valuable to writers of non-fiction prose. Strategies commonly used during workshops, such as offering oral or written responses, proposing interpretations, or in-serting vivid examples that add interest to narrative pieces can be directly applied to the one-on-one peer tutoring sessions run daily in the writing center. A second application is available through the addition of workshops to the writing center program. Covering diverse subjects ranging from poetry to the practical résumé, workshops run by peer tutors promote a higher frequency of writing center use and an increase in community involvement. Workshop models allow peer tutors to focus on the writing process instead of the written product, helping students to become more involved in their writing.