

### Preparing to Write an Essay? Tips From SSS English Specialist

By Randa Arnett

At the risk of resembling a boring screensaver, I offer the following suggestions to those preparing to write their next essay:

Don't procrastinate!

Be sure you understand the assignment requirements!

Identify your topic and then brainstorm about it to generate ideas that can be included in the paper.

Find a person who

can give feedback about what you have written.

Take advantage of helpful resources such as a tutor, or the English Specialist in Irvin Hall.

Be willing to make changes that will make your ideas clearer for the reader.

Remember that writing is a skill that gets easier only if you keep practicing.

Don't be discouraged,

but keep on writing.

Writing initiates an amazing creative process. The most obvious result is that others are able to learn what we think, but the coolest aspect of the process is that **WE** discover what we think. So, you may begin writing a paper **thinking that you know** about your topic, but by the time you actually finish that paper, you will end up **knowing what you think**.

### Extra, Extra!

Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook (Highland SSS), follow us on Twitter (sss@highlandcc.edu), and follow us on Pinterest (Highland Community College) for updates and birthday announcements!

### February Events

February 4-Admissions Rep from Sterling College, CT Lobby, 9:30am-2pm

February 6-Admissions Rep from Fort Hays, CT Lobby, 10am-1pm

February 12-Transfer Workshop, 1:00pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor

February 13-Admissions Rep from Southwestern, CT Lobby, 10:30am-1pm

February 13-SSS Valentine's Workshop, 1:30-pm3:30pm

February 23-PTK Induction Ceremony, Culbertson Auditorium, 7pm

February 24-Admission Rep from American Public University, CT Lobby, 9am-12:30pm

February 25-Admissions Rep from Cleveland Chiropractic, CT Lobby, 10:30am-1pm

February 26-Workshop Wednesday, 2pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor (Topic TBA)

### February Birthdays

February 10-Tamara Hodges

February 12-Mercedes MacDonald

February 16-Trevon Anderson

February 18-Jamal LaFond

February 19-Cori Otto

February 21-Chris Babel, Nic Babel, Jessica Lewis

February 22-India Johnson

### Scholarship, Transfer Information, Tools Available

By Kim Bechtold

1. Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are tons out there you just have to set aside a few minutes each day to look!

2. Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site for about twice as many matches.

3. Use a free scholarship matching service like Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily, and the site will email you notifications of new scholarships that match your personal background pro-

file.

4. Set up a separate email address when applying for scholarships. Free search engines like scholarships.com and fastweb.com will send an email every day to your inbox, by setting up a new account you can then abandon it when done transferring.

5. Make sure the email address you use to apply is professional. Addresses like [sweetie\\_pie@gmail.com](mailto:sweetie_pie@gmail.com), [win-terhater@hotmail.com](mailto:win-terhater@hotmail.com) or [countrygirl@yahoo.com](mailto:countrygirl@yahoo.com), are not appropriate try using your first and last name or initials.

6. Look for local scholarships

on bulletin boards or just by asking around.

7. Apply to scholarships even if you do not meet all criteria. You never know how many people have applied, if you were one of the few you might get it.

8. Don't miss deadlines. Use a calendar and checklist to get organized.

9. Personalize your essay and write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd.

10. Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.

### SSS Staff Contact Information

Andrea Keller, Director of Student Support Services: 785-442-6147, [akeller@highlandcc.edu](mailto:akeller@highlandcc.edu)

Audrey Caudle, Retention Coordinator: 785-442-6017, [acaudle@highlandcc.edu](mailto:acaudle@highlandcc.edu)

Kimberly Bechtold, Transfer Advisor: 785-442-6052, [kbechtold@highlandcc.edu](mailto:kbechtold@highlandcc.edu)

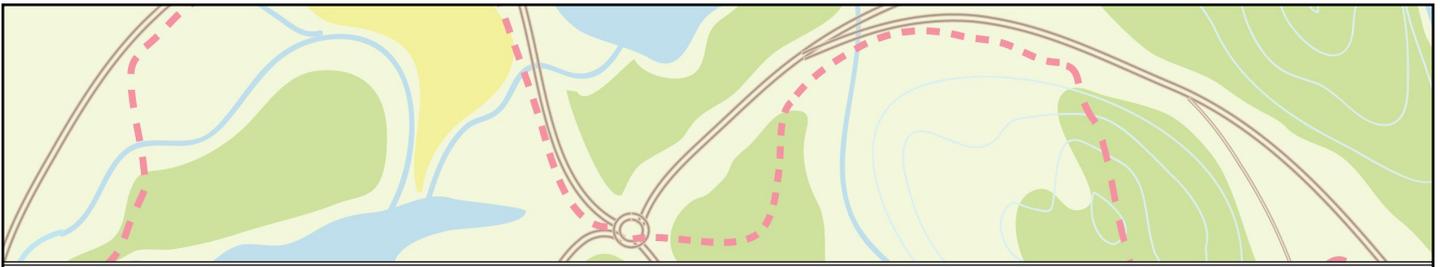
Randa Arnett, English Specialist: 785-442-6151, [rarnett@highlandcc.edu](mailto:rarnett@highlandcc.edu)

Michelle Hurn, Math Specialist: 785-442-6075, [mhurn@highlandcc.edu](mailto:mhurn@highlandcc.edu)

Shelley Smith, Math Specialist: 785-442-6063, [srsmith@highlandcc.edu](mailto:srsmith@highlandcc.edu)

Kristi Kelley, Office Assistant: 785-442-6058, [kkelley@highlandcc.edu](mailto:kkelley@highlandcc.edu)

Check your e-mail for a link to fill out a survey for the SSS program. We want to know how we can better serve YOU! Names will be drawn from participants who complete the survey for gift cards!



## Cool iPad, iPhone Tricks Every Student Should Know

By Audrey Caudle

I firmly believe that students should invest time getting to know your technology devices so these devices can be considered helpful, not just as a distraction! On the website [newideasforyou.net](http://newideasforyou.net), I found some great tricks you should know if you are an iPhone or iPad user.

1. On the iPad: Make typing more comfortable by switching your keyboard to thumb mode. Simply swipe two fingers across the keyboard. This displays a different keyboard, which allows you to type with your thumbs the same way you type on your iPhone.

2. If you put your phone on airplane mode, it will charge twice as fast.

3. Take selfies using the remote on your earbuds. Just click the volume + button on the remote on your Apple or Apple-compatible earbuds while in camera mode to click and shoot, or the middle button (play/pause) while in video mode. No more selfie arm!

4. Quickly get to the Camera app without having to unlock your phone. Swipe up on the little camera icon in the bottom right corner of your home screen.

The Camera app will open, bypassing the unlock screen. This is especially handy when something incredibly photo-worthy is happening and you need to access your camera ASAP. It's also great when handing your phone to others for taking photos – they won't need to enter in your password.

SSS now has 3 iPads available for use in the SSS room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Irvin Hall. We have loaded some great study apps for you to use. We would like to hear from you if you want other apps loaded on the iPads. If you have any questions about the iPads, feel free to talk to me!



## Get a Head Start on Mathematics Courses

By Michelle Hurn

How you approach a class from the beginning can have a huge impact on how well you do in the course. Here are a few suggestions to help you along your journey to successfully completing your math course.

1. Get to know your instructor in a positive way and act as if you enjoy the course. Your attitude can influence how others react to you.

2. Participate during class. This means answering questions, asking questions, and giving attention to every problem the instructor puts up for working and discussion. Every problem has been chosen to benefit you. Make sure that you benefit from every problem.

3. Not only be on-time for class, but get there a couple of minutes early. Use the

time to review your notes and remind yourself of questions you have for the teacher.

4. Do homework regularly, even if none is assigned. If your teacher assigns homework do it the day it's assigned. The longer you wait the more you will forget about the class' discussion of the topic. Never wait until the last minute. If you do, then you won't have time to get the help you need.

5. Find a good study partner. Discussing the material or problems with others will help involve more of your senses which should help with learning.

6. Always go to class. If you do happen to have an emergency where you will miss a class, be sure to talk to your instructor about it. Remember, it is your responsibility to learn the material and make up any work you miss.



SSS Members-Stop by the 2nd floor of Irvin Hall on Thursday, February 13th from 1:30-3:30 to make a Valentine for that someone special!

