

## **APSU Writing Center**

### **Writing in a Foreign Language**

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Instead of writing in your native language and then translating, try composing directly in the intended language. Remember that not every word or phrase translates perfectly between languages.

#### **Strategies**

##### **Allow More Time to Write**

- Acknowledge that writing in a second language will naturally take longer than writing in your first language.

##### **Do Not Translate Word for Word**

- Try to write as much as possible in the intended language first.
- Afterward, review your grammar and sentence structure for accuracy.

##### **Read in the Intended Language**

- Notice how writing is organized and whether the tone is formal or informal.
- Read different types of texts to see how native speakers express themselves in various contexts.

##### **Ask a Native Speaker to Review Your Writing**

- Collaborate with a native speaker to help improve your sentence structure and catch writing errors.

##### **Make a List of Words and Phrases You Overuse**

- Track repeated words or common mistakes in your drafts.
- Use your list as a checklist to avoid repeating the same errors.

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#### **Consider Grammar and Style**

- Focus on writing grammatically correct sentences to strengthen your language skills.
- Practice writing in both formal and informal tones, and in the past, present, and future tenses.

#### **Keep Your Writing Simple**

- Find creative ways to express yourself using what you know to write short, clear sentences.
- Writing is important for improving other language skills, such as accuracy. It allows you to focus on using language correctly and avoid future mistakes.

#### **Revise Your Writing**

- After completing your first draft, use dictionaries and grammar resources to refine your writing and clarify your ideas.

#### **Be Kind to Yourself**

- Recognize that you are writing in this language to communicate with your audience.
- Remember that writing in another language takes time and practice
- You will continue to improve the more you write!



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### References

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