

Accessing the Online Writing Lab

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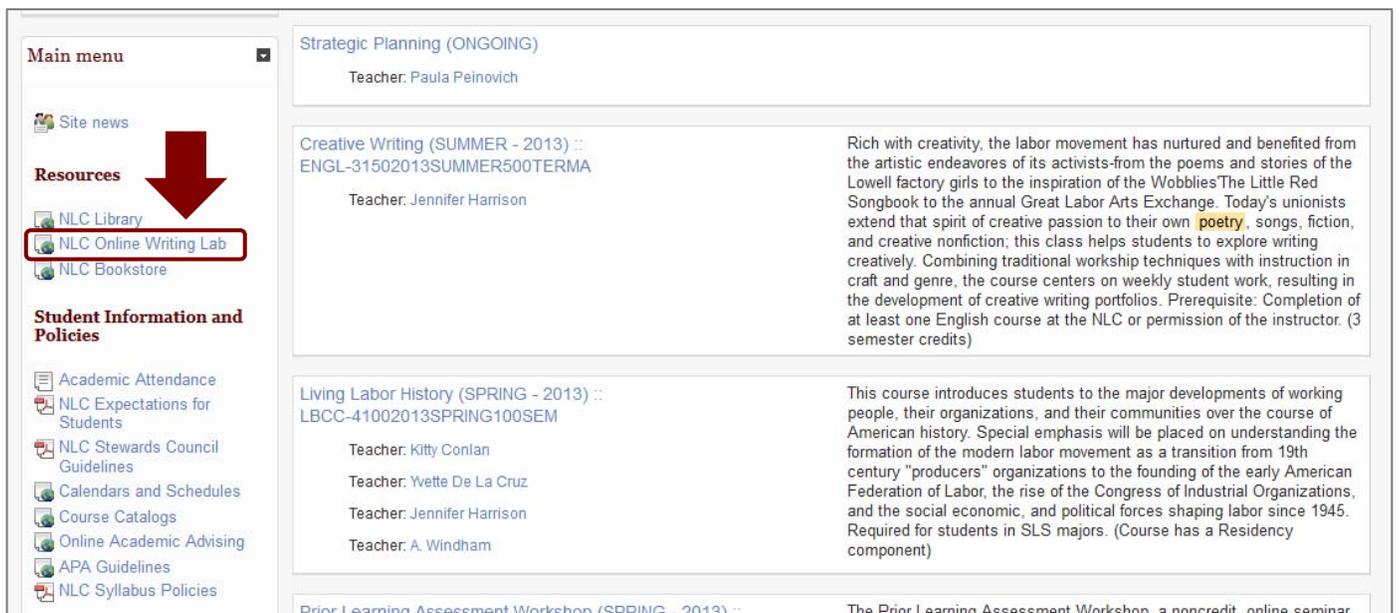
Joining the Online Writing Lab (OWL)

NLC's **Online Writing Lab (OWL)** fosters a writing resource community where students can work together, guided by writing instructors, to develop their expressive power and build confidence in their writing skills.

By joining the cost-free OWL, you can connect to writing instructors during evening office hours and work on revising sections of your papers. Additionally, the OWL instructors offer a dropbox. You can post a paper draft and ask a few questions, and an instructor will respond with feedback and suggestions for revising. Keep in mind that most college-level papers require multiple revisions, so plan now to schedule time for multiple visits to the OWL and multiple revisions of your project.

Getting Started

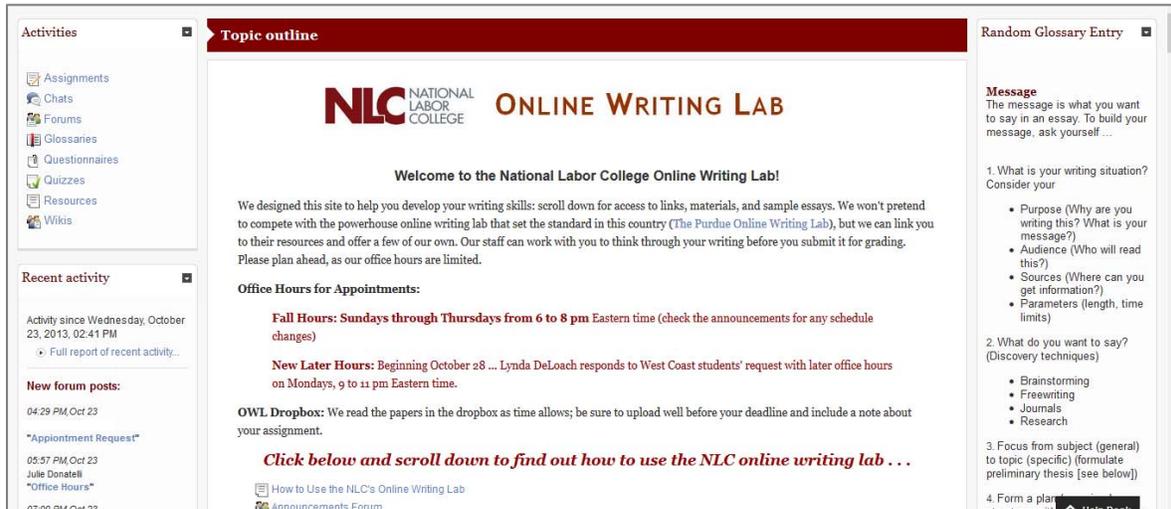
1. First login to Moodle: <http://learning.nlc.edu/>
2. On the main Moodle page, scroll down and look at the boxes on the left-hand side.
3. Locate **Resources**, and you will see a link to the NLC Online Writing Lab between the library and bookstore links.



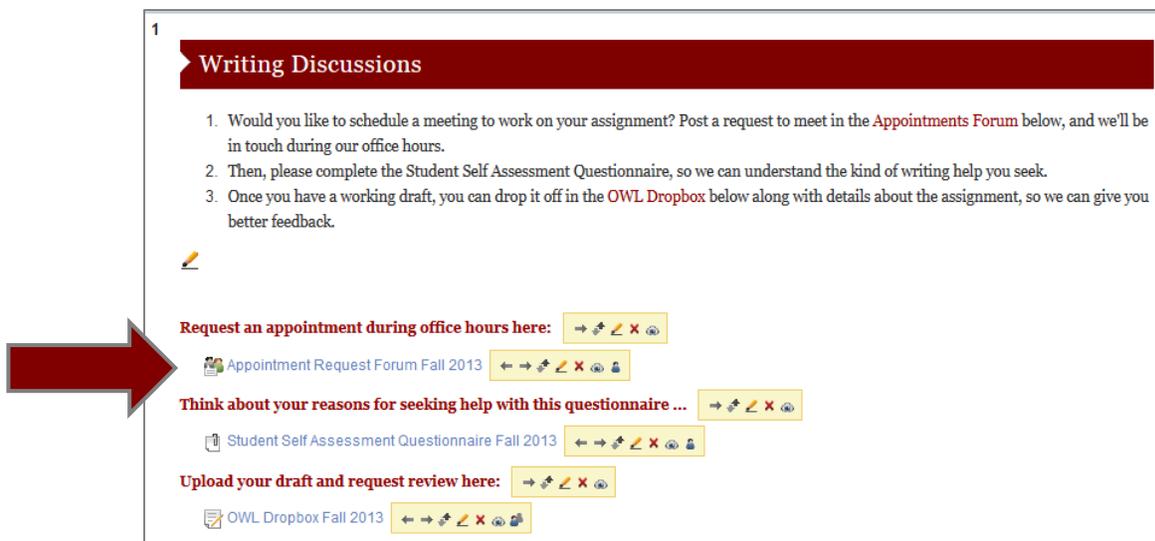
The screenshot displays the Moodle LMS interface. On the left, a 'Main menu' sidebar is visible, containing sections for 'Site news', 'Resources', 'NLC Library', 'NLC Online Writing Lab' (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow), 'NLC Bookstore', 'Student Information and Policies', and a list of links including 'Academic Attendance', 'NLC Expectations for Students', 'NLC Stewards Council Guidelines', 'Calendars and Schedules', 'Course Catalogs', 'Online Academic Advising', 'APA Guidelines', and 'NLC Syllabus Policies'. The main content area shows three course listings:

- Strategic Planning (ONGOING)**: Teacher: Paula Peinovich
- Creative Writing (SUMMER - 2013) :: ENGL-31502013SUMMER500TERMA**: Teacher: Jennifer Harrison. Description: Rich with creativity, the labor movement has nurtured and benefited from the artistic endeavors of its activists-from the poems and stories of the Lowell factory girls to the inspiration of the Wobblies... Today's unionists extend that spirit of creative passion to their own poetry, songs, fiction, and creative nonfiction; this class helps students to explore writing creatively. Combining traditional workshop techniques with instruction in craft and genre, the course centers on weekly student work, resulting in the development of creative writing portfolios. Prerequisite: Completion of at least one English course at the NLC or permission of the instructor. (3 semester credits)
- Living Labor History (SPRING - 2013) :: LBCC-41002013SPRING100SEM**: Teachers: Kitty Conlan, Yette De La Cruz, Jennifer Harrison, A. Windham. Description: This course introduces students to the major developments of working people, their organizations, and their communities over the course of American history. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the formation of the modern labor movement as a transition from 19th century "producers" organizations to the founding of the early American Federation of Labor, the rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the social economic, and political forces shaping labor since 1945. Required for students in SLS majors. (Course has a Residency component)
- Prior Learning Assessment Workshop (SPRING - 2013) ::** The Prior Learning Assessment Workshop, a noncredit, online seminar.

- Click on NLC Online Writing Lab (<http://learning.nlc.edu/course/view.php?id=101>). For your first visit, Moodle will ask if you'd like to join the course. Please say yes, and you will gain access to the OWL community.
- Here's what the OWL looks like when you arrive. At the top, you'll see instructions for using the OWL and an Announcements Forum, which OWL instructors use to send out information to all participants.



- Scroll down to **Writing Discussions** to access the **Appointment Request Forum**. Take the **Self Assessment** to think through the kind of writing help you are seeking. Post a message to the OWL instructors to request a meeting during office hours (posted at the top of the OWL). Offer details about the assignment, course, and your questions. An OWL instructor will respond and sign you up for the next available appointment.



7. In addition to appointments, the OWL instructors offer a **Dropbox** service. Upload a draft (see the file naming instructions); post a note with details about the class, assignment, and due date, then indicate the writing challenges you'd like the OWL instructors to focus on. The Dropbox is not a proofreading service: instead faculty review essays guided by students' questions to offer focused feedback. Schedule time to revise after you've received feedback, then follow up with an appointment or another Dropbox review. Good writing typically takes multiple drafts.
8. Scroll down to take a look at the **Writing Resources** available to you. The OWL instructors have prepared handouts, presentations, and other media to help you develop your communication, critical thinking, and information literacy skills. For example, click on the *Animated Paragraph Kit*, and a quick refresher on writing a paragraph will pop up.

The screenshot shows the 'Writing Resources' page. A red arrow points to the 'Animated Paragraph Kit' link under the 'Structure: Organizing & Planning Essays' section. An inset browser window shows the 'Extreme Paragraph Makeover' animation.

Writing Resources

This section presents printouts and links about writing gathered from multiple NLC courses. Some resources respond to issues we often see in student essays: plan to address issues from past papers recursively.

- What Resources Would You Like to See Here?
- Strengths & Weaknesses
- NLC Writing Rubric
- Effective Writing Glossary

Structure: Organizing & Planning Essays

- A Writing Sketch
- The Five-Paragraph Essay Blueprint
- Introductions, Body Paragraphs, & Conclusions
- Animated Paragraph Kit**
- Academic Writing

Techniques: Tools to Think Through Problems

1. Narration
2. Description
3. Example
4. Comparison and contrast
5. Process analysis
6. Division and analysis
7. Classification
8. Cause and effect
9. Definition
10. Argument

Animation - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Animation

bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rewritingplus/mapk/Animatio

Extreme Paragraph Makeover

If you don't see something you seek, let the instructors know by responding to our resource survey (<http://learning.nlc.edu/mod/questionnaire/view.php?id=52357>).