

Working with Multilingual Writers

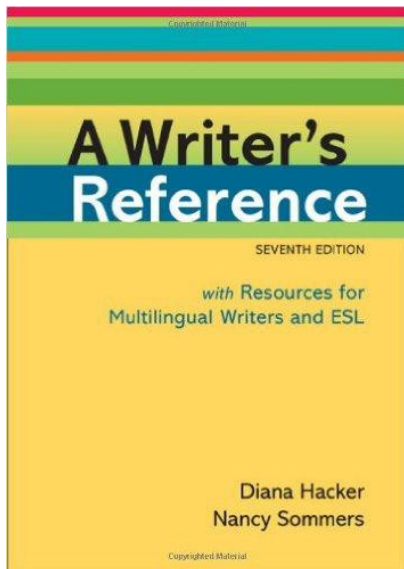
Writing Center Consultants are knowledgeable about best practices for working with multilingual students, and they are also familiar with the basic premises of a field of study called contrastive rhetoric that researches how different cultural practices and assumptions inform rhetorical and linguistic choices in writing. (For example, many Asian cultures do not privilege premise first thinking and writing, and writers from Arabic cultures may embrace, say, exaggeration as stylistic tactic. In short: writer and reader expectations can vary across even English speaking countries.)

We recommend watching the film *Writing Across Borders*, which offers an excellent introduction to the concerns noted above and one that engages those concerns from both student and faculty perspectives. The Writing Center has a copy of this DVD for loan; instructors may also view clips of the film and access a written transcript of it at the following webpage:

<http://writingcenter.oregonstate.edu/writing-across-borders>

Some additional resources:

Diana Hacker & Nancy Sommers *A Writer's Reference with Resources for Multilingual Writers and ESL*



ISBN: 978-0312649364

Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab): ESL Teacher Resources

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/586/01/>

List of resources and resource summaries care of The Center for Writing Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/wac/resources/WorkingwithESLWriters.html#websites>

[Faculty Resources, University of Toronto](#): *Detailed suggestions for teaching multilingual students and grading writing.*

[Faculty Resources, OCAD University, Toronto](#): *An online booklet with information on topics such as creating a “participatory classroom,” designing accessible lectures, supporting ESL writers, and plagiarism. Students’ and faculty’s stories are incorporated throughout.*

[Faculty Resources, University of Minnesota](#): *Detailed suggestions for responding to different aspects of ESL students’ writing—e.g., grammar, logical development, critical thinking, use of evidence.*

[Faculty Resources, University of Hawaii at Mānoa](#): *Two bulletins for faculty discuss ESL students’ writing. “[Writing Matters 4](#)” addresses how interventions at different parts of the course can help students improve their written accuracy. “[Writing Matters 6](#)” focuses on errors and plagiarism.*