

Writing Center Outreach: Tabling and Community

To what extent do UCWbL student employees articulate the UCWbL's Core Beliefs to the University community while conducting Outreach through tabling?

Learning Outcome

- Student employees who staff outreach events will be able to articulate the UCWbL's core beliefs to the relevant community.

Methodology

- Research team members, the research team graduate assistant and the Outreach Coordinator observed tabling interactions by UCWbL student employees over 4 consecutive days in common areas on both campuses.
- Written field notes were generated from observing each tabling interaction unrelated to the specific student employees present.
- Data were analyzed to determine if student employees referenced core beliefs implicitly or explicitly.
- After the 4 days of field notes were completed, each note taker shared evidence of comments either implicitly or explicitly referencing a core belief to norm their findings.

Demographics

- Of the approximately 80 UCWbL student employees who were also members of the outreach team, only 10 (12.5%) participated in tabling sessions assessed for this project.
- Data were not collected about the student employees participating in tabling.
- All but two student employees were undergraduate peer writing tutors in their first year with the remaining two students being the Outreach Graduate Assistant and a third-year outreach team member.

Key Findings

- Of the 63 core belief mentions during tabling interactions, 60 mentions (95%) were implicit and 3 mentions (5%) were explicit.
- On each day of tabling, more than one core belief was mentioned.
- Compared to last year's assessment of tabling interactions, there were approximately twice as many core belief mentions recorded during this year's project.

Plan of Action

- It is recommended to continue a separate tabling division within the outreach team.
- Findings suggest that gains were fostered by the additional training and direction of the tabling division on which UCWbL outreach can continue to build.

Example of
implicit mention of Core
Belief #6 regarding different
contexts and genres of writing:
“We just provide feedback on
writing, all types of writing.
Comp sci or fiction, any type
of writing.”