Purdue University
Purdue e-Pubs

Purdue Writing Lab/Purdue OWL Graduate Student Presentations

Purdue Writing Lab/Purdue OWL

3-28-2014

Increasing Writing Center Visibility: The Political Rationale

Ellery J. Sills
Purdue University, esills@purdue.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/writinglabgradpres

Part of the Rhetoric and Composition Commons

Recommended Citation
Sills, Ellery J., "Increasing Writing Center Visibility: The Political Rationale" (2014). *Purdue Writing Lab/Purdue OWL Graduate Student Presentations.* Paper 4.
http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/writinglabgradpres/4

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Increasing Writing Center Visibility: The Political Rationale

Ellery Sills
Purdue University
ECWCA 2014: Oxford, OH

Repository Goals:

- Help demonstrate the scholarly nature of writing center work
- Expand what counts as writing center research

(Rhetorical Exigency = Make our research visible!)

Why The Struggle for Visibility Persists

- Prevailing service model myths
- Administrative attraction to service myths
- “If we define ourselves only as what we are not, we cannot be much, to ourselves or to others” (Enriquez, Haviland, Olson and Pizurie)

Scholarly Research

1) **Scholarly Presentations:** Previously unpublished conference presentations or workshops formally presented at academic conferences
2) **Theses and Dissertations:** Writing Lab research conducted by Purdue graduate students/alumni
3) **Workshops:** Brown bag series, in-lab workshops, open attendance workshops, requested or solicited workshops

Writing Center Administration as Research

Writing center administration = "localized, contextualized inquiry in which a director studies aspects of his or her own center as part of the process of shaping the writing center" (Harris 76)

Writing Center Administration as Research

‘Offering ‘research’ publications as the only evidence of writing center work does not really reconceptualize the sites for intellectual projects or force the reevaluation of nontraditional materials as evidence of intellectual work…evaluation [of intellectual work] ought to be based on written documents that writing centers routinely produce” (Marshall 76)

Administrative Research

1) Annual Reports
2) Writing Lab Histories (Written and Oral)
3) Training Materials
4) Promotional Materials
5) Data Sets
6) Technical Reports