

# WriteAway

Writing help ... *Online*

## What is WriteAway?

WriteAway is a proposed collaboration by BC post-secondary institutions to create an online writing service for learners across the province. Through WriteAway, learners will connect seamlessly to a network of tutors and resources for writing assistance.

## WriteAway Partners

WriteAway is a truly collaborative project, involving educational organizations as well as the participating institutions. **BCcampus** is providing technical expertise as well as funding for WriteAway, and has just approved seed funding for the 2012/13 year. The **Irving K. Barber Learning Centre** is also contributing funding for the 2012/13 year. The **BC Electronic Library Network (BC ELN)** is bringing expertise developed by coordinating similar collaborative projects to implement the pilot project and build the larger collaborative.

## Actions to Date

**Planning:** Developed a project plan outlining a software selection process, infrastructure requirements, and timelines.

**Funding:** Developed report requesting WriteAway funding from BCcampus for 2012/2013.

**Technology:** Orchestrated software platform demonstrations; contacted vendors for proposals and pricing; short-listed vendors.

**Communicating:** Transitioning the current informational website to a communication and promotional tool, as well as portal to the service; developing web and print marketing items.

**Connecting:** Conducted the BC Writing Support Services Survey in order to better understand current writing support practices and identify primary contacts at each institution.

## Next Steps

- Launch pilot phase with four early-adopter sites: College of the Rockies, Douglas College, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Simon Fraser University.
- Support other post-secondary institutions wishing to join service.
- Continue to develop service based on the needs of participating institutions, and user feedback.
- Evaluate potential for expanded online tutor support across other disciplines.

## WriteAway Benefits

- Provides a highly accessible service for learners on and off campus.
- Creates a collaborative service available more hours per week than any single institution could provide.
- Assists institutions in their development of innovative educational technology.
- Facilitates the sharing of expertise and the creation of a professional community of practice that is diversified into different regions of the province.
- Increases equity throughout the post-secondary system via a service which benefits learners at large and small institutions, and in all geographic regions.