Contents

Foreword by Ilona Leki xi

Introduction xiii

Part I  Cultural Contexts

1  Insights into Cultural Divides
   Nancy Hayward  1

A tutoring session is never limited to the student’s text. Instead, it extends into the cultures of the tutor, the writer, and the institution, often revealing new values and perspectives. Examining cultural differences will help tutors understand the students they are helping and will go a long way toward bridging cultural divides.

2  Theoretical Perspectives on Learning a Second Language
   Theresa Jiuling Tseng  16

Tutors often underestimate the enormous challenge of learning a second language. A deeper look into language learning offers insights into the ways in which ESL writers grow into their new language.

Part II  The ESL Tutoring Session

3  Getting Started
   Shanti Bruce  30

To ensure a positive outcome for the tutoring session, a good start is essential. By setting goals collaboratively and representing them visually, tutor and tutee can decide on the best way to spend their time together and keep focused on the writer’s top priorities.
4 Reading an ESL Writer’s Text
  Paul Kei Matsuda and Michelle Cox  39
Knowing how to read the paper an ESL writer brings to the writing center may be the most important part of the session. What are some of various ways to read an ESL writer’s paper, and how does a tutor know which one is right for the session?

5 Avoiding Appropriation
  Carol Severino  48
When there is a disparity between what native speakers know about their language and what nonnative speakers seek to learn, it is easy for writing tutors to exert too much control over a paper. Helping tutors to find the right balance between being helpful and assuming helplessness is the focus of this chapter.

6 “Earth Aches by Midnight”: Helping ESL Writers Clarify Their Intended Meaning
  Amy Jo Minett  60
When a tutor struggles to understand an ESL writer’s text, it is tempting to leap to conclusions about the meaning an ESL writer intends to convey. This chapter helps tutors avoid this pitfall.

7 Looking at the Whole Text
  Jennifer Staben and Kathryn Dempsey Nordhaus  71
Understanding the relationship of all the parts of a paper is just as vital in ESL writing as it is in L1 writing. This chapter helps tutors to see how they can move beyond word- and sentence-level concerns to talking about the ideas and organization of the entire paper.

8 Editing Line by Line
  Cynthia Linville  84
ESL writers often want to know the rule behind every correction they need to make in their papers. Tutors, meanwhile, often don’t know the rule or can’t verbalize it. This chapter helps tutors discover how to deal with aspects of word- and sentence-level errors that frustrate ESL writers and seem unexplainable to native speakers.

9 Tutoring ESL Papers Online
  Ben Rafoth  94
When tutoring shifts from in-house to online, writers and tutors have to adjust their expectations. In this chapter, we learn from one director’s experience with tutoring ESL writers in an online environment.
10 Raising Questions About Plagiarism
   Kurt Bouman  105
Avoiding plagiarism is a lesson that most tutors have rehearsed many times. Some ESL writers come from cultures that do not share our taboo against "stolen ideas" or "lifted words," however. This chapter helps tutors to understand how American academic rules for documenting sources compare to other cultures' and offers ideas for how to talk with ESL writers about problems of plagiarism.

11 Is This My Job?
   Paula Gillespie  117
ESL writers' needs often extend far beyond the paper they bring to a session, including interpreting a textbook, deciphering a syllabus, figuring out a professor's expectations, and editing a master's thesis. How are tutors to address needs that go beyond writing?

12 Creative Writing Workshops for ESL Writers
   Kevin Dvorak  127
Promoting creative writing with ESL writers is a good way to help them broaden their experiences beyond the narrow limits of academic discourse—and have fun at the same time. This chapter shows how tutors can make their workplace a creative writing center for ESL students.

Part III A Broader View

13 The Role of Writing in Higher Education Abroad
   Gerd Bräuer  133
Have you ever wondered what ESL students' experience with tutors in their own country has been like? What can U.S. tutors learn from their counterparts in other countries? Explore these and other questions with someone who has worked in writing centers in both the United States and abroad.

14 Trying to Explain English
   Ben Rafoth  140
It's a great language, but not an easy one to master, or to explain. Understanding just a fraction of what makes English challenging to learn will give tutors a new appreciation for the linguistic obstacles ESL students face.
15 ESL Students Share Their Writing Center Experiences
Shanti Bruce 149

Second language scholars can teach us a lot about assisting ESL students in the writing center, but if we stop there, we will have gotten only half the story. There is much to be learned from talking directly with ESL writers about their personal experiences in writing centers.

Glossary 163
Contributors 167
Author Index 169
Subject Index 171