**WRITING WORKSHOP**

**October 12, 2011**

**WHY WE WRITE:**

1. We write to communicate with friends from afar.
2. We write to share our opinions.
3. We write to inform people about news and new policies.
4. We write to educate.
5. We write to vote.
6. We write to pass the time.

Since we write all the time, we should work to improve what we write.

**TIPS:**

1. Don’t use abbreviations when writing papers for class.
2. Don’t use colloquial language when writing university assignments.
3. It’s ok to write “cuz” or “yeah” on facebook, but not in assignments for classes.
4. Be careful that your language is not repetitive.
5. Avoid beginning sentences with “and” or “but.”
6. If it helps you, read your work aloud to help you edit it.
7. Always edit your work before turning it into your teacher.
8. If you allowed enough time, have a friend edit your work.
9. Write your own work. If you copy someone else’s work, you’re stealing that person’s intellectual property. That shows that you don’t have a mind of your own. By writing your own work, you are showing that you have a brain and you know how to use it.
10. Write what you know/like. If your teacher gives you an open-ended assignment, make it work for you so you can write about what you like.

**COMMON ERRORS:**

* Translating texts straight from Ukrainian is not the most effective way to write English. We form sentences in different ways. Direct translation sounds awkward and forced. Try to write with you already know.
* Copying is the worst and most terrible error. Copying/plagiarism is strictly forbidden in America. When students are caught plagiarizing, they are kicked out of their colleges and universities and basically can never get back into these schools. It’s not a cool thing to do.
  + Imagine if you had written a really great article that was published by an educational journal and a bunch of students copied it and turned it in as if it was their own. Wouldn’t you be upset?
* Laziness – Most of the errors I’ve seen in my students’ work are caused by sheer laziness. If they would take more time to edit their papers, they would catch them. If they write fast and close to deadline, they make more errors.