

Tutor Connections



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Your Tutoring Resource

Tutor Connections is an online, biannual newsletter for members of the Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA). If you have comments or ideas about the content, please contact us.

Jeannie Ruggiero
Secretary, GATA 2011-2012

GATA on the Web

[http://
facultyweb.maconstate.edu/
tim.vick/about.htm](http://facultyweb.maconstate.edu/tim.vick/about.htm)



President's Welcome

Kim Ascani
President, GATA 2011-2012

"It's all about the students." Sounds so simple, doesn't it? Yet, it is so easy to lose sight of what we are here for.

GATA is all about students--giving guidance and support to the students we serve.

I am looking forward to an exciting year for GATA. We are in

the midst of great change in our state. It is vital that we adapt and grow with these changes.

It is my plan this year that GATA will provide opportunities for growth through workshops and train-the-trainer sessions for new coordinators and discussion boards for veteran coordinators. We all

have a wonderful wealth of knowledge and experiences to share. Supporting and encouraging coordinators as well as students enables GATA to fulfill its primary purpose of serving students well.

Please let me know your ideas on how GATA can assist you and your students.

2011 Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA) Conference

Jeannie Ruggiero
Secretary, GATA 2011-2012

On Saturday, February 26, 2011, the 11th Annual Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA) Conference was held at Macon State College, Professional Sciences Center in

Macon, Georgia.

Attendees from several colleges in Georgia participated in the event.

Presentations featured at the conference included a wide range



of tutor training sessions, such as *The Academic Smorgasbord*, conducted by Paul Johnson,

Coordinator of the Macon State College Academic Resource Center, that consisted of a "...roundtable discussion for tutors regarding major academic issues at the collegiate level."

Other presentations included *Tutoring Treacherous Territory: Keeping Things in Check*, which "...provid[ed] different approaches and solutions to common problems for tutors with a focus on mathematics"

presented by Emi Sato and Patrick Darby of Kennesaw State University.

In the afternoon, attendees had the opportunity to choose other training presentations, for example,

The Conversational Model of Tutoring: Talking as Teaching by Beth Burmester, Andrew Davis, Jennifer Forsthoefel, and Oriana Gatta of Georgia State University. This particular training

session introduced "...demonstrations, examples, and resources emphasizing how talking as tutoring can instill habits leading to students' independent success..."

Addressing the need for new tutoring strategies was Wendy Giere-Frye of Gordon College with *A Twelve-Step Approach for Tutors with Lead Addiction*. Attendees learned about the

importance of listening to students' needs and improving communication by tutoring subjects, such as mathematics, without depending on the usage of a pencil.

With the success of this year's tutoring conference, GATA is looking forward to motivational and creative presentations in 2012.



Election of 2011-2012 Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA) Officers

Jeannie Ruggiero
Secretary, GATA 2011-2012

During the 2011 Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA) Conference, new officers were elected for 2011-2012.

As part of the progression of officers, Angela Meyer, 2010-2011 GATA President and member of the Executive Board,

from Georgia Perimeter College, became Immediate Past President for 2011-2012, and Kim Ascani, 2010-2011 GATA President-Elect, from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, was elevated to GATA President for 2011-2012.

Robert Jordan from Kennesaw State University, who was previously GATA's 2010-2011 Vice President, was elected the 2011-2012 President-Elect.

Kimberley Sloan from DeKalb Technical College was elected GATA's 2011-2012

Vice President.

Alan Craig from Georgia Perimeter College was re-elected GATA's 2011-2012 Treasurer.

Jeannie Ruggiero from Macon State College was re-elected GATA's 2011-2012 Secretary.



“I never knew that...” Advertise Study Resources!

By Paul Johnson

“I never knew that...” You’ve probably heard students begin statements with these words. Tutees will often express their thrill when they learn that there are great study aids available. The job of a tutor is to encourage tutees to become independent learners; therefore, tutors have the opportunity to share with their tutees where to find helpful study aids.

Let’s first look at traditional hard copy resources, beginning with textbook resources. Students may forget to use the index, the glossary, and the answers to odd problems at the back of the textbook. Some students don’t know there is such a thing as a student solution manual for mathematics classes! If students delve deeper into searching for resources, they may find instructor solution manuals in the reserve section of their college’s library. While these manuals can only be used in the Library, they can help students who want to work the even problems in the textbook (including chemistry and calculus at Macon State College). Students can even refer to the TI-84 instructional booklet for help with many math problems.

A unique hard copy resource at Macon State College is *PATHWAYS: Models for Composition* published by the humanities division. I’d never thought about using it during a tutoring session until I saw an English student come in

with a copy of *PATHWAYS*. Sometimes English textbooks do not have plentiful examples of essays such as narration, argument, or comparison and contrast, so *PATHWAYS* fills in the gap here at Macon State College.

Credit by examination study aids are additional resources that students can use. Students can use CLEP (College Level Examination Program) test material for studying, even if they are not planning on taking a CLEP test. The CLEP site for the 33 exams is found at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html>. The 2010 CLEP test guide has about 70 questions per subject area. DSST tests, formerly known as DANTES tests, also have sample exam guides. Thirty-eight exams are described at <http://www.getcollegecredit.com/>. Additionally, students can buy “Super Review” guides and laminated review sheets in their college bookstores. If students decide to take these “credit by exam” tests, they earn a “K” on their transcripts if they pass and they will be three credit hours closer to a degree!

Internet resources have increased exponentially during the last decade. The first location to look for study resources is on your college’s home page. Here at Macon State College, the Academic Resource Center site has supplemental videos streamed online from publishers such as Pearson or McGraw Hill, etc. Also, math faculty members have created a calculator tutorial for Math Modeling and

Elementary Statistics students. The screen shots, powered by Camtasia, show students the step-by-step process to enter values into the calculator. In addition, some faculty post answers to practice tests online in MSC Vista or may upload old tests with keys. Professors may even have their own personal websites linked to the college’s website.

Let’s now look at freely available Internet sites. A new site I learned about in 2010 was www.khanacademy.org. When I first saw the site, Sal Khan had over 1000 videos on his site. Now he has over 2000 videos uploaded to YouTube. Each video is fairly short (about ten minutes), yet each video is packed with great information. Khan covers math from elementary operations all the way to up calculus, differential equations, and linear algebra (not to mention additional subjects such as chemistry, biology, and physics). He has even worked out every problem from selected books for the GMAT and SAT study guides. He has some history videos on his site covering the French Revolution and the Haitian Revolution; his goal is to cover entire world history in his videos!

For another gratis website, one can’t beat www.wwnorton.com/studyspace. Even if the student does not have a textbook published by Norton, the content is similar

enough to be a great help. The political science, history, and economics (to name just a few subjects) resources contain multiple choice questions, flashcards, and detailed outlines. For English resources, Purdue University has one of the best sites at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>. The Purdue Online Writing Lab has a wealth of information including citation guidelines and grammar tutorials.

Specific Internet sites cover the COMPASS test. English and reading COMPASS tests are available at <https://web.gsc.edu/fs/mhorton/LEnglish/> on the Gainesville State College website. Math COMPASS practice is available on the Georgia Highlands College’s website at <http://www.highlands.edu/wcotter/COMPASS/compass.htm>. ACT, the test maker of COMPASS, has a website <http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html> with pdf booklets replete of math problems and reading and English passages.

Other students may need help writing essays, finding typing drills, and pronouncing difficult words. The University System of Georgia has a website with study resources for the Regents’ test (some schools are exempt from this test). Students can take practice reading tests and look at passing and failing writing samples at <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwrtp/>. Students can check out www.m-w.com (Merriam-Webster’s dictionary site) to learn how to pronounce words by clicking on the microphone

near the word. Also, students who need practice typing can go to <http://powertyping.com/>, which is the best site I've found for typing drills.

Additionally, some divisions may offer tutoring in their own areas

(mathematics, business, history, foreign language), and these services may not be well advertised. Students can ask department secretaries if tutoring is offered through the departments.

Some students may not even know that

the main tutoring center exists. You may hear, "I never knew that tutors were here." To some, even the tutoring center is a secret! Advertise your college's study resources and tutoring center, and teach tutees to become independent learners.

MORE INFO



Tutor Tips and Strategies

TEN STEPS FOR SOLVING STORY PROBLEMS

Provided by Kimberley Sloan, Vice President, GATA 2011-2012

From Academic Success Press, Inc.

1. Read The Problem Enough Times

Enough times means the number of times it takes you to understand the problem.

2. Decide What IS Given And What Is Being Asked

All problems give necessary information and ask a question.

3. Cross Out Unnecessary Information

Some problems contain extraneous (unnecessary) information.

4. Begin To Make A Transition From Words To Symbols

Start to write something on paper – draw pictures or diagrams.

5. Use Of A Table Might Be Helpful

Some problems (distance/rate/time, mixture) require tables.

6. Write A Math Statement (Equation)

Translate words to math symbols.

7. Solve The Math Statement

Use algebraic rules, concepts. Do it carefully.

8. Apply The Answer From The Equation To The Story Problem

For example: $x=2$ might mean the width is 2 cm or John is 2 years old.

9. Check The Answer In The Story Problem

Answers from incorrect math equations are usually wrong.

10. Be Sure The Answer Makes Sense

For example: Check an answer like 750 mph for the speed of a car. It is wrong.



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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Preparation for the 12th Annual Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA) Conference is underway.

The conference will be held at the Macon State College Professional Sciences Center in Macon, Georgia, on February 18, 2012.