

# THE PERSPECTIVE

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### The Spritely and Most Noble High Council of Yonder Perspective

- Eran Feintuch, Most Beardly Chancellor
- Ashley Richards, High Chancellor In Charge Of Brainstorming and Travel Arrangements
- Megan Hartmann, Most Egregious Envoy of Middle Eastern Dances
- Eric Scott!, Most Panda-like Chancellor

## WRITING CONSULTANTS! GAZE UPON YOUR NEW GOD!

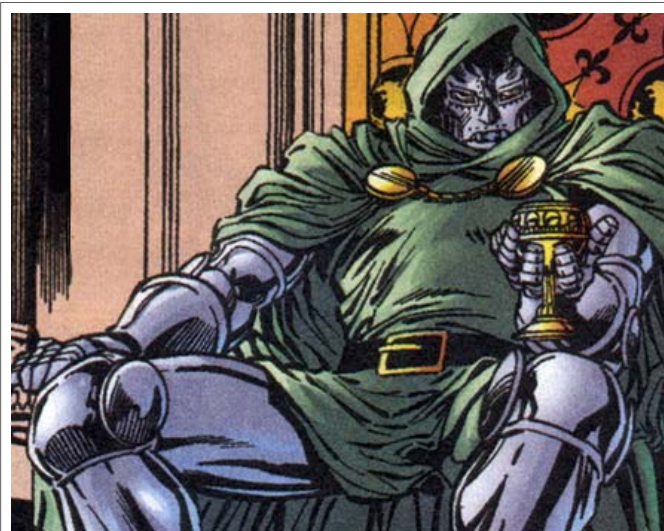
Writing Consultants. It has come to the attention of Doom that you are soon to experience a certain vacancy in the upper echelons of your power structure. By this Doom means that soon Mary Lou Woehlk will find herself stepping down from her throne of power, leaving you destitute, without a leader.

Doom has arrived to offer himself as a candidate. To ensure Doom's eventual victory, Doom has taken the liberty of vaporizing all of the other candidates. You will have Doom or you will have no one.

Perhaps you worry about the reputation of the Writing Center when it comes under the leadership of an armor-clad iron fisted despot, as many have described Doom. Yet you have merely fallen into the lies of Doom's enemies, including the Fantastic Four, Captain America, and the entirety of the Kentucky Fried Chicken establishment.

Fear not. There will be no room for fear or doubt when Doom is in control. Those who criticize Doom's methods shall find Doom's retribution to be swift and final.

Doom's rule shall be harsh, yet fair, for Doom is a beneficent ruler. ESL students shall no longer bother you, for all assignments shall be completed in Doom's native Latvian. No more shall indifferent WACT students stumble through vague prompts, for all their work shall be for the greater praise of Doom.



Dr. Doom, new lord and master of *The Perspective*.

You ask for Doom's qualifications? They are many. The mysteries of arcane magic are but playthings to Doom. Mastery of all sciences is within Doom's grasp. Indeed, an entire nation bows to Doom's will.

No, Doom does not technically have a doctorate, having been expelled from your Empire State University prior to graduation. The "doctor" is an affectation.

In conclusion, Doom asks you to consider Doom's offer. To refuse the will of Doom is to invite tragedy upon your Writing Center. Will you find it so easy to edit when a legion of Doombots lays siege to McClain Hall? Will you enjoy discussing your precious "higher order concerns" when you are rocketed into the Sun itself? Doom thinks not.

On the other hand, to accept the hand of Doom is to give yourself opportunities more bountiful than you could imagine. Instead of a Truman minivan, you shall accompany Doom to the ICWA conference in your American Las Vegas surrounded by retainers and lethally armed robots. As we stride in, cloaked in terror and majesty, all show bow before us in fear. All will be as Doom has planned.

What? You ask why such as Doom would lower himself to this position?

...Doom could not find work at Mizzou.

No matter. Doom will take what Doom can get.

*Victor von Doom is a frequent contributor to "Better Homes and Gardens."*

## DEAR ERAN

Dear Eran,

I have recently become aware of the fact that a majority of the writing center staff is physically attracted to me. Emily Murdock started a group on Facebook—the popular social networking website—that is called "Andrew Stashevsky is the hottest guy I know." Christopher John Moore joined the group and wrote, "I would totally boof him." John McDonough wrote, "Omg he's soooooo hottttttttttt, i wanna do him!!!!!" Eran, I need your help. Should I interpret these expressions of attraction merely as hasty, passionate manifestations of affection, or

should I be concerned for my safety?

Sincerely,  
Andrew Stashevsky

Dear Mr. Stashevsky,

This is a common problem among young men like us, one I have to deal with on a daily basis. I understand it can be disconcerting as well as downright frightening, but keep this in mind: Writing consultants are by nature flighty. They can't spend longer than 30 minutes on a paper before they're pouring over another one. They're exactly the same with men – trust me, I know from experience. Thus I would interpret

these come-ons as manifestations of an intense but transient infatuation. Their passion is obsessive, but it will pass. Based on the information you have given me, you have no reason to fear for your physical safety – but keep a close eye on those characters Chris and John. They show signs of some sort of latent personality disorder that reveals itself most around other male writing consultants like you and Franklin.

So in short, good sir, take heart, but keep an eye out all the same.

Yours,  
Eran

"Maybe you and I should be heterosexual life partners."

-Andrea to Emily M.

"Good idea. We could share clothes."

-Emily in response

## BRING ON THE BAD GUYS!

*This issue of The Perspective features a nearly sick amount of consultant surveys.*

- 1) **Full Name:** Renee Stites
- 2) **Year in School:** Second – year student, Junior by hours.
- 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** English major, Spanish and Business Administration minors, planning to apply for the MAE
- 4) **What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?** I have not taken any science since my junior year of high school. My dual-credit science courses transferred – *thank God!* – so I don't have any more science to take. I don't know how much I help I would be if someone came in with a lab report, etc. It's just not my thing.
- 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Jane Austen. I love reading her books (and I tend to do so over and over again). I think it'd be fascinating to pick at

her brain and thought process over coffee – I'm not too interested in Ferris Wheels.

- 6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** *Harry Potter!* Not only would I be rich and famous, but I would have inspired millions of kids to actually pick up a book and read. (If nothing else, my name would be on the banned book list – *gasp!*)
- 7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** Seriously, Kathy would NEVER do that. IF it did happen, I probably laugh, cry, and then beg Kathy for mercy.

- 1) **Full Name:** Molly Mosher McCleery
- 2) **Year in School:** Junior
- 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** English major, Spanish minor
- 4) **What's the paper/subject**

**you're dreading working with the most?**

Accounting papers. They're not terribly exciting.

- 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?**

F. Scott Fitzgerald. Not only was he the life of the party, he would be able to beautifully describe the glittering lights below and use awesome 1920s lingo. Plus, I'd want to chat with him about *This Side of Paradise*.

- 6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** *Nine Stories*. I love "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" and the Glass family.

- 7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** Cry for a little bit, get a cup of coffee, and start reading.

## BRING ON THE BAD GUYS!

- 1) **Full Name:** John McDonough  
 2) **Year in School:** Junior  
 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** English, Justice Systems  
 4) **What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?** Coke or heroin, I'm not sure which is crazier.  
 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** J.K. Rowling—she is hottt and probably knows magic.  
 6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** Kama Sutra—duh.

7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** Get over it.

- 1) **Full Name:** Katie Marie Werkmeister  
 2) **Year in School:** Junior  
 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** History, English, and minor in linguistics  
 4) **What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?** I don't do crazy things.  
 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Kate Atkinson. She's pretty much my favorite author at the moment, and her sense of humor

cracks me up! (very British, for those of you who don't know- shame on you!)

- 6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** Clarissa by Samuel Richardson. I guess I like being hated and repeating myself for 1500 pages.  
 7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** Cry hysterically, and then start talking to myself. She might take it away, but then I might also get admitted to a mental hospital... no, the mental hospital is better.

- 1) **Full Name:** Michelle Blaser  
 2) **Year in School:** Sophomore  
 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** English/Philosophy & Religion  
 4) **What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?** Before I started working I was most afraid of working with ESL clients and not being able to understand them.  
 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Chuck Palahniuk, because he's so crazy I'm sure that we wouldn't run out of things to talk about.  
 6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** Harry Potter, because it is pretty intricate and I would be very, very rich.  
 7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** I wouldn't even consider it as serious, because I know Kathy too well. :-)

- 1) **Full Name:** Kara Bollinger  
 2) **Year in School:** Junior  
 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** English major, Spanish Minor  
 4) **What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?** Anything about science!  
 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Truman Capote—the man pretty spunky and he told great stories. I wouldn't tell him any secrets, though, because he would share them with everyone.  
 6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** I don't even know...  
 7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** I love Kathy, so I would take it, and do my best. Of course, I'd probably do all of my own homework first, and I might cry a little.

- 1) **Full Name:** Kaitlin Nicole Anderson...The cool thing is that I can combine my first and middle name to create an awesome screen name: kaitlinicole...Yeah...  
 2) **Year in School:** I'm in my second year, so I'm a sophomore...But I'm a junior by credit hour...I'll leave the deciding up to you guys.  
 3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** Comm Studies major, Psychology minor  
 4) **What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?** I hate science-y stuff...I am just NOT a science kinda girl, so whenever I get one of those papers, I just wanna be like, "Yeah, before I start reading I just wanna let you know that I have no idea what you're talking about. If you still want me to read it I will, but I'm not guaranteeing any useful feedback."  
 5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Nora Roberts...I wanna know if her life is anything like the stories

*"My nametag pulled on my chest hair. It hurt."  
 -Christopher John Moore*

## BRING ON THE BAD GUYS!

she writes.

6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** Probably *Brave New World*, *Catcher in the Rye*, or *The Great Gatsby*...They were all my favorites in high school English, and I had an awesome teacher who showed us all the symbolism and underlying meaning...Those are three really awesome books.

7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** Say "Kathy, you're crazy," hand it back to her, and go get a piece of candy out of the basket.

1) **Full Name:** Katherine Elizabeth Jennings

2) **Year in School:** Junior

3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** English major, Ag Business minor, I've applied to the MAE program because I want to teach elementary school.

4) **What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?**

I don't do crazy things, I guess, but I did have a three minute conference a couple weeks ago. If it's a required conference and the client clearly does not want to be there, I figure there's no reason for either of us to be miserable, so 5-10 minute WACT conferences are not uncommon for me.

5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Dr.

Seuss, because I'm sure he would make the time pass quickly. And Paul, of New Testament fame, because I think what he's written would make a lot more sense if he had come to the writing center first! If nothing else, I could feel like I understood better.

6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?** *To Kill A Mockingbird*. I remember reading it in high school and thinking, "If I could turn my own small town experiences into a book of this caliber, I would be perfectly content to write just one." If I got to put my name on Harper Lee's book, I wouldn't even have to write one novel!

*"We should all sleep with each other on rotation. That would create more drama."*

*-Anonymous*

(Editor's Note: More drama? Do we really need more drama?)

7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?** Agree. Only a fool would argue with Kathy. I would probably cry and threaten to run away and join the circus later that night, but not in front of Kathy.

1) **Full Name:** Whitney Millar

2) **Year in School:** 1<sup>st</sup> year MAE student; super-senior?

3) **Major(s) and minor(s):** Degree: English; Minor: Spanish; MAE: Secondary Eng. Ed.

4) **What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?** The persuasive papers Dr. Cook just assigned her Academic Writing for Non-native Speakers students. It's supposed to end up being 8 pages long and it's their first major paper for her, which means it will be a lot of technical editing like bibliographic citation as well as grammar, organization, etc. Her stu-

dents have tended to really struggle with this paper in the past.

5) **If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?** Shel Silverstien. I'd ask him to write a funny poem and draw a picture to go with it about how we got stranded at the top of a Ferris Wheel.

6) **If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?**

The *Harry Potter* books. I'd be rich, famous, and probably get to meet all the sweet actors in the movies. Plus, I'd love to read my own books for fun. :-)

7) **If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?**

I'd take the top 10 pages and hand the rest back with a polite smile and a "Thanks."

*The Writing Consultant Survey was designed and administered by Ashley Richards.*

*Ashley Richards seemed destined to become the Heavyweight Champion of World, but she retired into obscurity after she broke her back in a match with Jake "The Snake" Roberts.*

## DEAR ERAN, AGAIN

Dear Eran,

I think I may have feelings for another consultant. He and I have been buddies for quite some time now and I'm worried that telling him about my feelings may damage our relationship. Should I risk our friendship in hopes of having something more? And how can I let him know how I feel?

Help!

-Lost and Lovestruck

Dear Lost and Lovestruck,

This is indeed a dilemma. You should try to assess the situation as honestly as possible, without letting your emotion carry you away: is there any possibility that your friend might find you attractive as

well? If there is some chance, you should drop some hints of your affection, ambiguous ones that could be interpreted as signs of close friendship. If you notice any favorable response, I would proceed to tell him of your feelings. It is a risk, but it is worth it; the torment you would suffer at forever wondering what might have been would outweigh even the loss of a friend.

Oh, and p.s.: If the person you're attracted to is Chris or John, you really need to get over it. This situation is really getting out of hand.

I wish you the best of luck.

-Eran

Dear Eran,

Sometimes in my dreams, I see the masks in the Writing Room, and they terrify me. What should I do?

-Sleepless in Kirksville

Dear Sleepless in Kirksville,

Stop taking drugs.

Dear Eran,

Can we see you naked?

-John & Franklin

Dear John & Franklin,

No.

*Eran Feintuch's primary hobby is "breakin' necks and cashin' checks."*

## ALL A PART OF THE JOB

I don't think I'm being too excessive when I say that I love my job here at the Writing Center. It's a job about words, and being an English major, that's kind of my stock in trade; furthermore, writing consultants are pretty much the greatest concentration of uncut awesome on campus.

But it's still a job, and there are parts of every job that aren't the best.

Sometimes I just know a conference isn't going to go so well. This is something that you can tell in the course of the paper, and it usually boils down to a few common categories: the ESL paper where your only real option is to help the student with their grammar; the uninterested WACT writer; the paper written by a junior or senior who has gotten *this* far in the world with some kind of disturbing opinion and is certainly not about to change it now.

I sometimes find myself pausing even after I'm fin-

ished with these kinds of papers, looking at the clock and wishing I could just ignore this conference and get on with my life. Of course, that's not an option, so I press on— after all, that's part of the job too.

But the really wonderful thing about being a writing consultant is that, if you let it happen, sometimes you find these awkward moments lead to some of your favorite experiences.

Maybe my favorite conference ever was with an international student from Nepal. I have to admit, I'm often wary of conferences with international students, because there's a good chance that there will be really serious grammar issues, some serious culture shock, or both. That's hard to resolve in 30 minutes. The fact that it was a WACT paper only made this seem more likely.

The paper itself was pretty good— I've probably read better papers here, but it was

more than adequate (and in general pretty strong for a WACT-level essay.) But to my surprise the conference itself ended up being really good— one of the most intelligent discussions I've ever had. Some of it was because of culture shock— his paper was about failures within the Nepalese educational system, so he had to explain that to me— but much of it was simply because we were both interested in the others' thoughts. If there was ever an example of the WC's "collaborative learning process," this was it.

And it came from a conference that I remember beginning with a sigh, wondering if I was going to be pausing to stare at the clock after reading. A pleasant surprise? Hey, that's part of the job too.

*Eric Scott runs a café in Casablanca. He has a hard-edged exterior but secretly he's got a heart of gold.*

*"That's stupider than the Alamo!"*

*-Christopher  
John Moore*

## THE WRITING CENTER

The Perspective, As staffed by:  
Eran Feintuch, Megan Hartmann, Ashley  
Richards, and Eric Scott!  
Eric actually wrote the Dr. Doom article.

Published as often as possible.

Please send all submissions, particularly  
ones involving waterfowl, a blowtorch, and a  
miraculous recovery to eos127@truman.edu.

Quite a bit of the Perspective is pure satire,  
like this thing to the right. Please accept it in  
the spirit in which it is written.

We have a website, though unless  
you're reading a copy in the WC  
itself, you already knew that.  
[writingcenter.truman.edu](http://writingcenter.truman.edu)

  
**The Perspective**

Brought to you by the freaky pyramid  
thing stuck in by Microsoft Publisher.

# 9 WAYS TO MAKE A CONFERENCE MEMORABLE

We've all had bad conferences. Maybe you just aren't connecting with your client, maybe they're being sullen and cranky... maybe you're just bored. Here are some ideas to make your conference one to remember for you and your client.

- 1) Introduce yourself and ask how the client is doing. If they ask you how you're doing, immediately launch into a long and emotional story about your boyfriend, grandmother, roommate, dog, etc. If the client cautiously brings up their paper, stare forlornly towards the hallway and whisper, "I have bigger problems."
- 2) Tell your client things that are very clearly incorrect. "Here, you say the *Taming of the Shrew* is by Shakespeare, but recently scholars have been calling him by his rapper name, or 'Big W. Bardilicious'"
- 3) Don't sit down at the beginning of your conference, and give your client a weird look if they attempt to sit down. If they join you standing, promptly sit on the floor. If they sit on the floor, relocate to the table. Keep 'em on their toes.
- 4) Halfway through reading a client's paper, mutter thoughtfully, "Hmm, this might be a job for..." and run out into the hallway. Come back in wearing a cape and mask and yell, "INCOHERENT PAPER MAN!"
- 5) When the client sits down, thank them excitedly and slide them a paper of yours. Start to fill out the blue sheet and act like you're the client.
- 6) Only communicate with your client via the magnetic poetry boards. Extra points if you look emo doing it.
- 7) While reading the clients paper, slowly roll your chair out into the hallway, all the while reading intently.
- 8) Collaborate with two or three other writing consultants working the same shift as your to spontaneously break into an original musical song and dance about the Writing Center.
- 9) This one is reserved for difficult clients who refuse to take your suggestions. Halfway through the conference, shout, "WAIT A MINUTE!" and start scribbling like you've made some mathematical breakthrough. Look up after awhile, and say, "I've done some calculations, and I've determined that you're full of it, so why don't you can it and listen to me?"

Have fun!

*Megan Hartmann put herself through college through a series of elaborate con jobs, often taking lovestruck widows for everything they had without them even knowing. She was finally caught after a brutal 18 hour stand-off outside of Bill, Wyoming.*

*"Here is a lesson in creative writing. First rule: Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college."*

*-Kurt Vonnegut*