



To Read More!

Analyzing the Absence

Creative Writing in the Writing Center

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Research Question

- 75% of University of Pittsburgh tutors say that they have not worked with creative writing more than once or twice a semester; all, when asked in an interview, said they'd would like to work with it more
- Only 0.53 percent of writing center appointments made at Trinity College between 2012 and 2015 were for creative writing

Why are creative writers not coming to the writing center?

Literature

Student-Level Concerns

- Writing center vs. workshops
- Personal narratives
- Writing students shouldn't need "help"

Tutor-Level Concerns

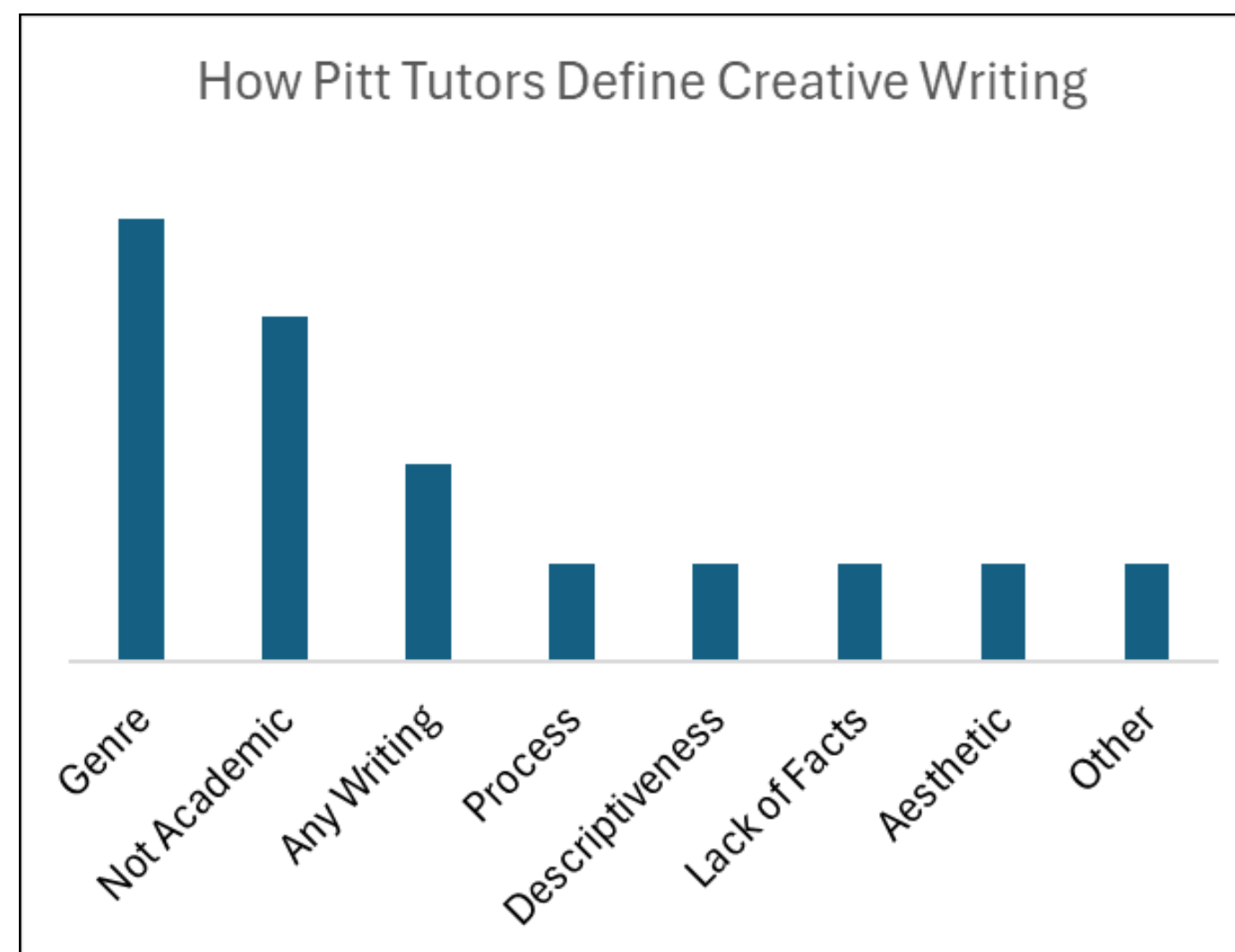
- Creative writing is "too personal"
- How to respond to creative writing?
- "Othering" of creative writing within academic spaces

University-Level Concerns

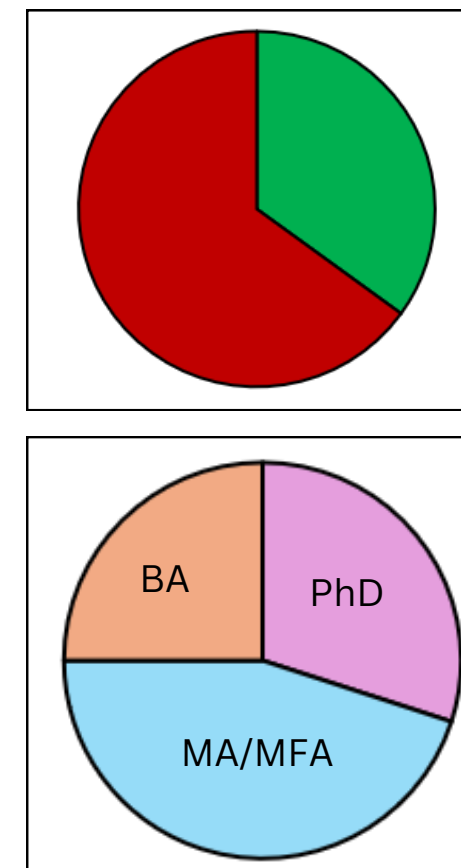
- How to define creative writing?
- What is the best way to provide outreach to creative writers

My Research

How Pitt Tutors Define Creative Writing



35% of Pitt tutors have or are pursuing degrees in creative writing



"I usually define 'creative writing' in contrast to 'professional writing.' I hesitate to define the latter as solely a form of scholarship because I think that creative writing can also be a form of scholarship"

"I think of all types of writing as creative... however, I realize Pitt makes the distinction of composition vs creative writing, meaning fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction"

"And i think it would be beneficial too, if creative writers maybe had understood that there are also other people available to get feedback on your writing that might be valuable, that might be inspiring"

"It would be nice, for a change of pace"

"Mostly it was actually tutoring other tutors, and their writing, as practice. A lot of us were creative writers"

Context

Every university environment is different, so each writing center requires different steps towards fostering creative writing

- Incorporating genre awareness pedagogy and improving improvisation skills (Ozer)
- Physical or digital handouts on creative writing tutoring skills (Denoto, Ostrom)
- Genre tutoring (Cassorla)

Next Steps

The University of Pittsburgh Writing Center's goal should be to inform creative writers that there are experienced professionals in their field willing and able to provide strong feedback

- More outreach to fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry classes
- Easily available information on professors' backgrounds and interests in WConline
- More research into university and writing center pedagogy