

Incorporating Ethical Proofreading in the Writing Center: Fighting the Stigma Against Proofreading

Viktoria Sako, University of Pittsburgh Department of English, vas139@pitt.edu

What's Ethical Proofreading?

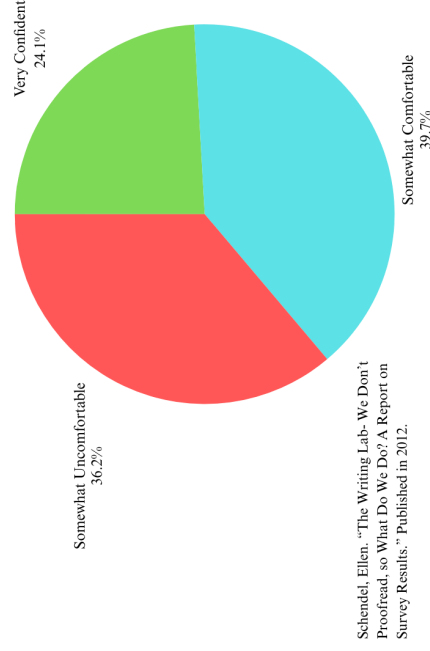
A way to solve the misconstrued stigma of tutor-student proofreading being academically dishonest is to implement practices of ethical proofreading in our writing centers.

- Ethical proofreading involves the tutor working with the writer to assist them in working through their paper, looking out for ways it can be improved in both grammar and mechanics, without altering the meaning of the student's original work.
- This is a pedagogically focused proofreading strategy that creates a collaborative process to aid the student-tutor relationship.

Research

The pie chart below represents the survey results of tutors when asked their confidence/ comfortability on marking errors on student's papers. This marks the importance to not only educate tutors on methods of ethical proofreading but to facilitate the writing center as a space where tutors feel comfortable enough to ethically help students with their proofreading concerns.

Tutor Confidence/ Comfortability on Marking Errors



Schenkel, Ellen. "The Writing Lab- We Don't Proofread, so What Do We Do? A Report on Survey Results." Published in 2012.

Our Writing Center

What can writing center tutors and administrators do to ethically adjust our pedagogies on proofreading?

- A tutor's proofreading interventions can enable students to accumulate a 'bank' of words and phrases useful for their current and future pieces of writing.
- A tutor can work with the student on say, a grammar/ mechanical issues, then provide an online resource for the student to look back on when they encounter the issue again.
- Administration members can adjust our pedagogy (listed below), into being accepting of ethical proofreading and even evaluate its use by providing a place on tutor reports for marking whether they worked on ethical proofreading during their session.

