

## Compare and Contrast: Brainfuse Tutoring and S.A.C. Writing Center Tutoring

### Brainfuse:

#### **Pros-**

1. Receives review for the entire paper
2. Does work for the client
3. Higher-level students benefit
4. Quickly improves paper
5. Work from anywhere
6. Free membership for students

#### **Cons-**

1. Difficulties for freshman and sophomores are high
2. Does not organically teach/automatically gives answers
3. Face to Face learning not provided
4. Does not cater to ESL students/any non-proficient writer
5. 1-2 day response time
6. Non-collaborative/Business-client relationship
7. Does not familiarize student with criticism/uncomfortable situations
8. Does not assist with brainstorming/outline/unprepared students
9. Not available to the general public

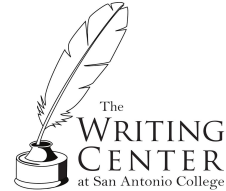
### S.A.C. Writing Center:

#### **Pros-**

1. Receives tech assistance/understanding
2. Four Functions- Printing, Studying, tutoring, and workshops
3. Organic Learning - students learn writing techniques
4. Easier for incoming students/ lower level
5. Improves learning retention
6. Open to community members
7. Assists with non school related assignments/resume building/resignation letters, etc.
8. Actively learning new/updated information
9. Provides informative documentation/resources like handouts/textbooks
10. Peer-tutoring/non intimidating/generates safes space for writers of all levels
11. Shows how to work towards answers collaboratively
12. Does not give answers away

#### **Cons-**

1. Must adhere to service hours; in-center, online, and satellite location hours are available



2. Session time is 45 minutes
3. 1-2 tutoring sessions per assignment per week
4. Interacting with new people/uncomfortable situations

**Student P.O.V. :** As a student who has received tutoring from the S.A.C. Writing Center and Brainfuse, I found both helpful in my overall improvement. Brainfuse in particular is available to all students, and they can submit an assignment from anywhere and not fall under the service hours of a in-person tutoring center.

Brainfuse provides general overviews of an entire paper with a 1 day response time, but unfortunately if a student needs a grammar, usage, or a mechanics review, they would have to submit another copy for that specific purpose.

Considering the amount of time I spent in the labor force after high school, my literary knowledge and preparedness was a bit rusty, so when I discovered that they do not assist with the brainstorming process, I was forced to seek help elsewhere. Then, when I approached the in-text comments given, I could not fully comprehend the website's critiques and recommendations, which may also be difficult for an ESL student. On the other hand, if a more knowledgeable individual utilized this online resource, the in-text critiques would help tremendously.

Furthermore, I found myself relying on the given responses when I should have been utilizing my own literacy knowledge. Whereas Brainfuse gave information, the S.A.C. Writing Center guided me through the assignment and began reinforcing my self-editing skills. Although the review and correction links provided by Brainfuse did shed some light on the issues at hand, a walk through of the writing process by the Writing Center tutors proved to be a more useful component of literary self-improvement. In conjunction with the in-person tutoring, the ability to collaborate with the tutor on my assignment gave me the opportunity to increase the depth of my literary responses and allowed me to develop a personal relationship with the tutors.

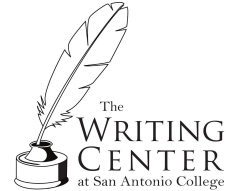
**Tutor P.O.V.:** There's a proverb that states that giving a man a fish feeds him for a day; teaching him to fish feeds him for a lifetime. From a tutor's perspective, the Brainfuse analysis gives fish away. It does not teach students how to fish. Brainfuse does not allow the client to organically learn through a collaborative approach and solidify the effectiveness of trial and error. Instead, it requires the client to adhere to the semblance of a seller-to-customer transaction. Sadly Brainfuse does not assist the client with the creation of a paper. It forces the individual to cold-write and upholds the vague understanding of the writing process the incoming student possesses.

On the grounds of their tutoring approach, an ESL student will have even more difficulty in their adjustment to the English language and its literary structure. Brainfuse gives comments and recommendations that the writer may or may not understand because of their current



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academic standing, e.g. introductory phrases, subject-verb agreements, and thesis statements, possibly privileging the more knowledgeable students.

On the contrary, a tutoring session at the Writing Center employs more aspects of the learning pyramid allowing a higher absorption rate than simply just reading a response from a tutoring entity. Another aspect that Brainfuse does not acknowledge is the issue with technologically challenged students here at S.A.C. While most younger students take the adjustment to technology for granted, the Writing Center also assists with familiarizing any student with a computer and the more commonly used programs.

In spite of their differences, there could be a possibility of synergy. If we take into account the pros and cons of each tutoring center, we could have Brainfuse assisting with the Writing Center's availability and session limit issue, and the Writing Center can assist the students and community members who prefer the guidance of an in-person tutoring session. The opportunity the students of S.A.C. could have with Brainfuse and the Writing Center as a conjoined tutoring option will dramatically improve the probability of literary excellence.

Nevertheless, the bottom line of a Brainfuse analysis is that they give you editing comments and recommendations for an essay that the client must have already initiated, and it may be a bit inhospitable in regard to tending to the writer's personal understanding and situation. On the other hand, the S.A.C. Writing Center guides the writer through the writing process as efficiently as possible within the timeframe of a tutoring session, allowing the abilities of self-editing and interpersonal communication to greatly improve. In short, the Writing Center helps the writer help themselves, allowing the opportunity for the writer to grow.