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# Taking the Commons to the Students – the BC WriteAway Initiative

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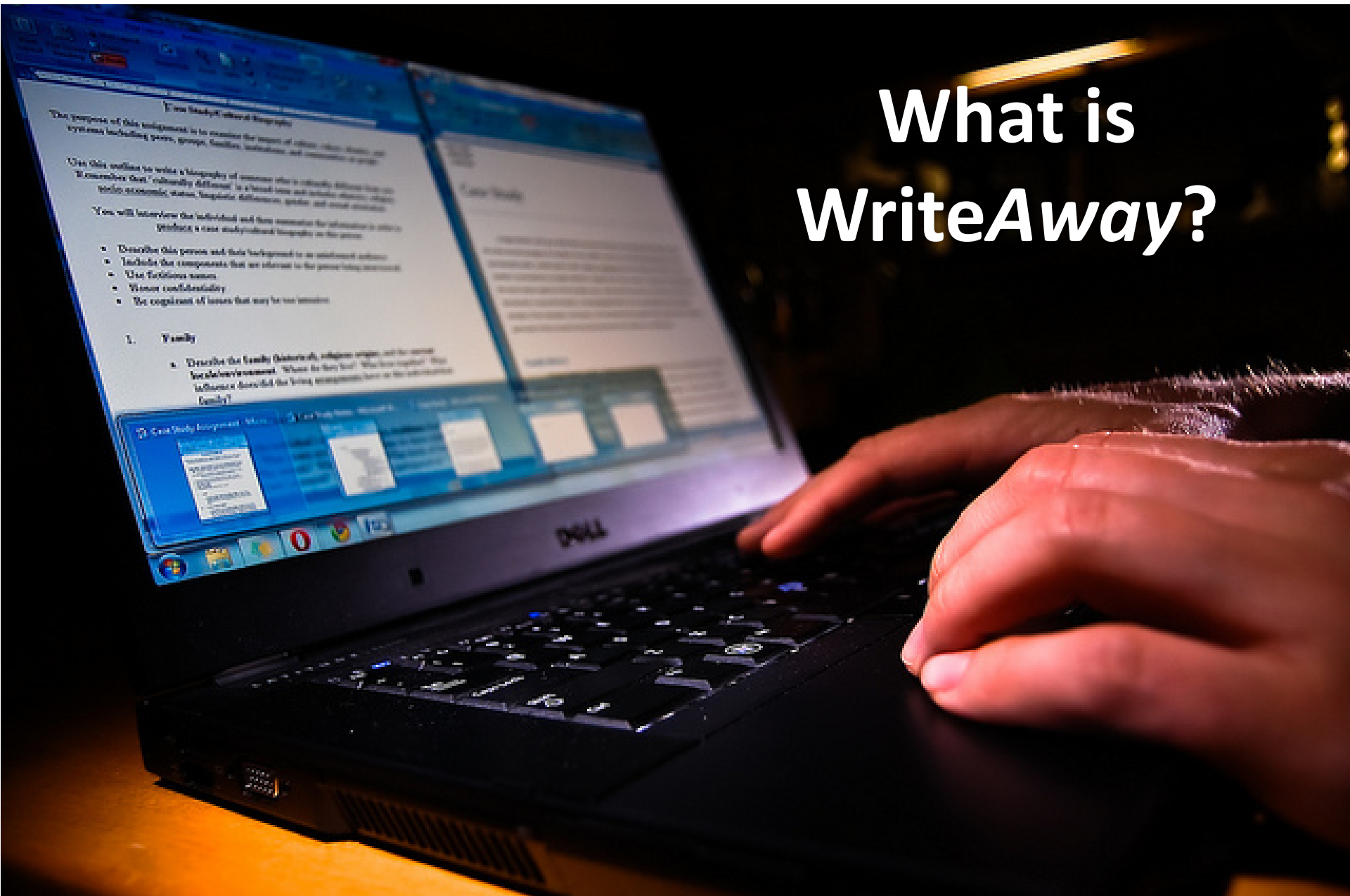
# Taking the Commons to the Students:

The logo for WriteAway, with 'Write' in orange and 'Away' in blue, both in a serif font.

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# What is WriteAway?



The purpose of this assignment is to examine the impact of culture on social systems including peers, groups, families, institutions, and communities at large.

Use this outline to write a biography of someone who is culturally different from you. Remember that "culturally different" is a broad term and includes ethnicity, religion, gender, economic status, linguistic differences, gender, and sexual orientation.

You will interview the individual and then summarize the information in order to produce a case study/cultural biography on the person.

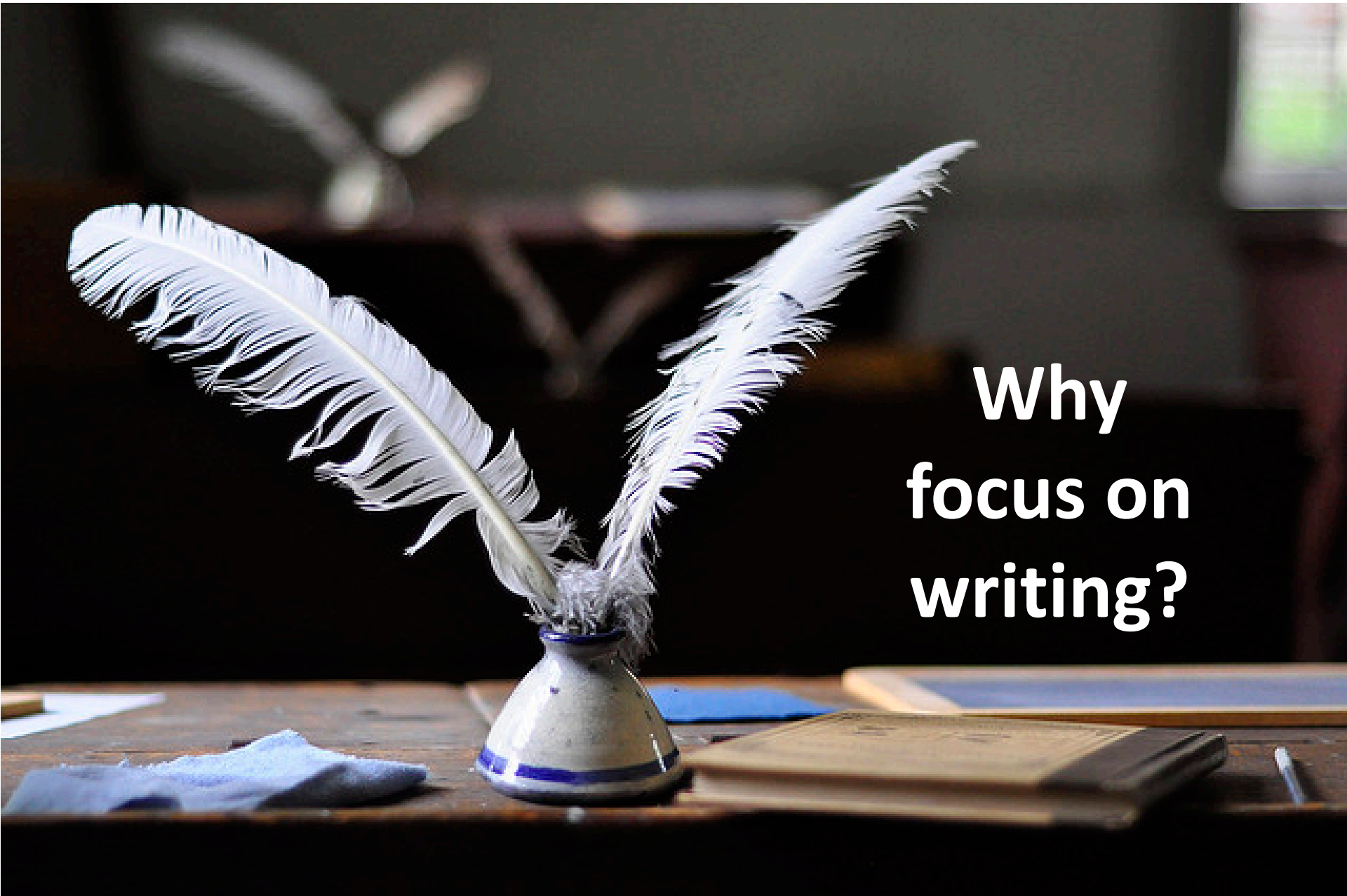
- Describe this person and their background in an unbiased manner.
- Include the components that are relevant to the person being interviewed.
- Use fictitious names.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be cognizant of issues that may be too sensitive.

## 1. Family

- a. Describe the family (historically, religious, origin, and the current household environment). Where do they live? What has happened? How has the influence described the living arrangements here in the individual's family?

# WriteAway ...

- is a proposed **ONLINE WRITING SERVICE** for post-secondary students across BC
- will offer synchronous and a-synchronous connection to a network of tutors and resources for writing assistance
- is a **COLLABORATION** of BC post-secondary institutions



**Why  
focus on  
writing?**



Going where the  
learners are



# Collaboration: the power of the learning commons



Canadian Learning Commons Conference,  
University of Calgary, May 7-9, 2012



# Collaboration...

- Between libraries and writing and/or learning centres to establish and administer the service
- Between writing/learning centres to develop and deliver the service



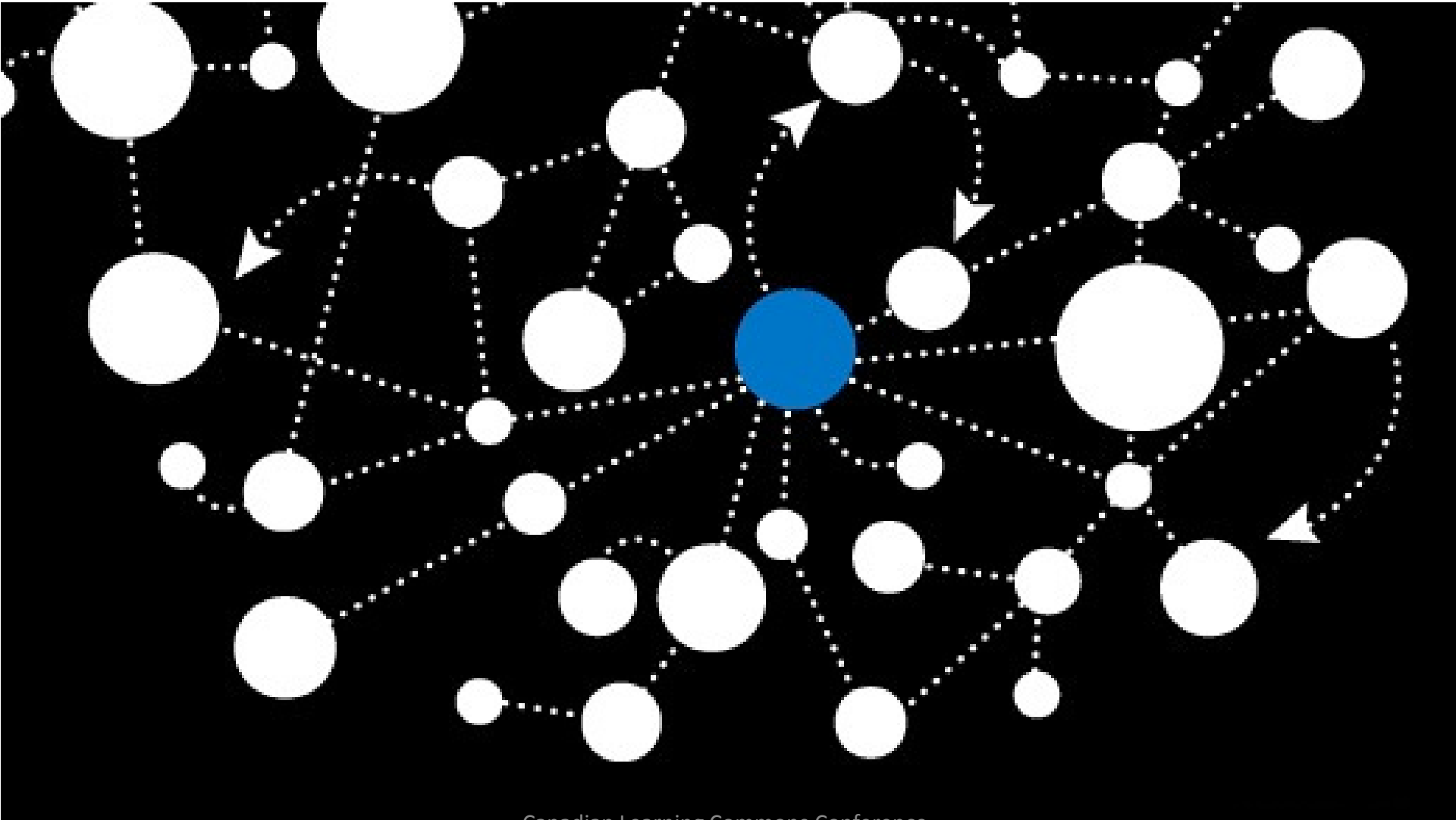


# Building on success

askaway..  
Real people. Real help.   



# Who's involved?

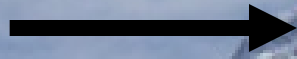




# A whole network!

- *BC Council of Senior Student Affairs Leaders (CSSAL)*
- Write Away Concept Committee:
  - Library and Writing Centre Reps from:
    - Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, College of the Rockies
    - Kwantlen Polytechnic University, SFU, UVIC, UBC (IKBLC)
- The BC post-secondary writing and learning community
- BCcampus & the BC Electronic Library Network

# Where are we now?





# Phase I. Exploration

September 2010 – Concept Committee established and begins scoping project

December 2010 – BCcampus earmarks funding and support

January 2011 - Provincial consultation meeting to gauge interest in the WriteAway service





October 2011 - BC ELN begins providing project management and administrative services

January 2012- Software Selection Subcommittee begins selection process

March 2012 – Service Guidelines Subcommittee begins work

April 2012: Concept Committee selects *e-tutoring.org* as service platform

## Phase II. Building Blocks



# Phase III. Launch of the Pilot

May 2012

Early adopters: College of  
the Rockies, Douglas  
College, Kwantlen  
Polytechnic University,  
Simon Fraser University

Training on platform  
and for online tutoring  
in readiness for  
launch



# What's next?

- **September 2012** - Pilot to be opened up to other BC post-secondary institutions
- **Fall 2012** - evaluate service effectiveness and measure the impact of *WriteAway*; report back to stakeholders



# Lessons learned

- Dedicated project management is essential
- Consultation and collaboration appreciated by stakeholders and writing services community
- Procedures need to be open for accountability and so we know we are going in the right direction

# Questions?



# Thanks!

For more information on **WriteAway**

➤ [bcwriteaway.ca](http://bcwriteaway.ca)

## Acknowledgments:

- WriteAway Concept Committee
- Council of Senior Student Affairs Leaders (CSSAL); BCcampus; BC Electronic Library Network; Irving K Barber Learning Centre (UBC)
- The photographers who share their work on Flickr under the Creative Commons license