



# Nameless Newsletter



Success Center ■ Room 1145 Information Science Building

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## Name Me!

What's in a name? Everything and nothing! The Success Center needs your help in naming our newsletter. Our crack team of judges will award a prize to the person who gives our newsletter its name. Submit your suggestions to Debbie Alford in the Success Center, Room 1145 of the Information Science Building or email them to [Deborah.Alford@Southwestern.cc.il.us](mailto:Deborah.Alford@Southwestern.cc.il.us). Make sure to put your name, email address and phone number on your entry. The deadline is September 14, 2001.

Some things to consider when naming the newsletter:

### What is the Success Center?

The Success Center is a wonderful place where Southwestern Illinois College students can receive **free tutoring in many subject areas** including math, sciences, accounting, any class requiring writing or reading assignments and more. It also offers Internet access and the use of numerous academic software products in its 20 seat computer lab. There are small group study rooms as well.

Have you heard about our outstanding weekly workshops on a variety of topics like how to use that high tech calculator and how to use the computers for CAI English classes? Students will surely benefit!

### Who will read this newsletter?

This newsletter is for our students, faculty and staff. If you have questions, send them to us. If you have a study tips, share them!

### Why have a newsletter?

A newsletter is a great way to share study tips, workshop schedules, new activities or products and other tidbits of valuable information. Each month

we will feature articles on topics such as: Website of the Month, What's New, What's Not and Dear Gabby, a section which will provide you responses to comments or questions submitted to us (subject appropriate of course) and more.

## How Do You Prefer to Learn?

Each of us has a learning style preference, which is essentially how we learn the best. If given the pieces of a birdhouse and told to assemble it, would you prefer to have someone explain to you how to put it together, watch a video or tinker with it to figure it out? Each of these methods describes a learning style preference.

If you know which learning style helps you to learn the best, you can incorporate this learning style in your studies. This can make learning easier and more effective.

Several learning style inventories are available to you. One of these inventories is the "Index of Learning Styles Questionnaire," written by Barbara Soloman and Richard Felder of North Carolina State University. It is FREE and available online at [www2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/ilsweb.html](http://www2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/ilsweb.html). The index categorizes learning styles in four ways:

- **Active or Reflective Learners:**

*Active learners* learn by trying things out and prefer working with others, while *Reflective learners* learn by thinking things through and prefer working alone.

- **Sensing or Intuitive Learners:**

*Sensing learners* prefer concrete and practical facts and solutions, while *Intuitive learners* tend to be innovative and like to conceptualize solutions.

- **Visual or Verbal Learners:**

*Visual learners* prefer pictures, charts and diagrams, while *verbal learners* prefer written and spoken explanation.

- **Sequential or Global Learners:**

*Sequential learners* prefer linear, orderly material and learn in small incremental steps, while *Global learners* prefer holistic material; they are systems thinkers and learn in large leaps.

## How does understanding your learning preference help you in school?

After you learn how you most prefer to receive new information, then you can set up your study materials in the method that feels the most comfortable. For example, let's say you are a visual learner. This can create a problem if your instructor delivers the material in a traditional verbal lecture style (great luck for the verbal learners in class). However, once you take the lecture notes, it would then be helpful to translate them into a visual form. For example, in a history class, you might want to create a time line or in a science class, you might find a chart more understandable than definitions. Additionally, you will have a much greater comprehension of the material after you have taken the time to modify it into a context that makes sense to you.

There are other inventories that can help you understand your learning and personality style also:

[www.hcc.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/vark.htm](http://www.hcc.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/vark.htm) - Short computer-scored assessment with study tips based on your identified preference

[www.keirsey.com/cgi-bin/keirsey/newkts.cgi](http://www.keirsey.com/cgi-bin/keirsey/newkts.cgi) - A 70 question assessment that looks at personality traits as it relates to learning

[www.womensmedia.com/seminar-learningstyle.html](http://www.womensmedia.com/seminar-learningstyle.html) - A hand-tallied learning styles checklist for women

For more information on learning styles or help incorporating your learning style to your studies, contact the Success Center.

## What's New

What's new is our Economics Workshops! We have 6 workshops that will focus on critical math concepts necessary for success in Economics. See the Fall Workshop schedule for a complete listing of dates and times. The Success Center proudly features top notch workshops on: Economics, Math, Calculator Usage, Writing and Reading, Study Skills, Career Development and Staying Out of Your Own Way (a workshop to help students address self-defeating behaviors—VERY GOOD!)

## What's Not

No offense to Paula Wade, who is both young and young at heart, but...what's not new is our outstanding tutors! The Success Center is proud to highlight one is its own: Paula Wade, Math Specialist. Paula began in the Success Center on opening day in August 2000 and continues to help students by tutoring them in various levels of math. Come on in and see if you can stump her on one of those tricky algebra problems.



Paula Wade  
Math Specialist

## Dear Gabby

Dear Gabby,

My older brother goes to ##### (another local college) and went to Southwestern's Success Center to get help with his algebra homework, but the math tutor sent him back to his college for help. What gives? Caring Little Brother

Dear Caring Little Brother,

Fortunate for you, we have wonderful math tutors in our Success Center who are there to offer you free math tutoring over 60 hours a week. Unfortunate for your brother, however, is that we have limits to our resources and are not able to adequately serve all of our students and outside students also.