

A 12 – Step Discovery Program

Beginning a writing center in the Gulf

Bevin Roue
Emirates College for Advanced Education
Abu Dhabi, UAE

A contradiction

- **Writing Center Philosophy**
- A place of discovery
- **Writing Center Start-up Strategies**
- A cookie-cutter approach
 - Example: Olson (1984)
 - Don't really tell how, just basic-what

Proposition

- Put the *discovery* into the creation
- 12-Step Discovery Program
 - Semi-practical steps based on:
 - Personal experience
 - Reflection

Pre-permission

1. Count the cost
 - Determination level, not finances
2. Determine the need
 - Your program may not need one

Getting permission

3. Get tricky

- Get people on your side
- Risky, a little devious, but could pay off

4. Cross the ocean

- Writing centers haven't spread to boss (maybe)
- Writing centers aren't ILCs

5. Beg, beg, beg

- Do you want it bad enough?

After permission

6. Get ready for problems

- Now you're doing something
- All practicality gets bogged down
- A wake-up call
 - Back to step 1

During start-up

7. Begin small

- Probably the default option
- Small messes are easier to fix than big ones

8. Advertise, advertise, advertise

- Advertisements don't equal comprehension

9. Collect evidence

- Be creative
 - Conference summaries, session evaluations, wish lists

Over-arching points

10. Have an exit strategy

- Stress may be too much
- School/supervisor visions change
 - May get hallas-ed
 - May get borg-ed (part of a larger learning center)

11. Be patient



Huh?

- Where's the 12?