Although technology cannot do all the work for you, there are many tools that can help improve your writing and make your process more efficient. See below for some Writing Center-approved resources related to various stages of the writing process. For more information about vocabulary and typing resources, see “International and Bilingual Students” under the “Student Resources” section of our website.

For expanding your vocabulary:

* ***The Free Dictionary***: In addition to a general dictionary and thesaurus for words and common phrases, this website has medical, legal, and financial dictionary options for terms specific to those fields. It also links to Wikipedia if you want more basic context for a term.
* ***Vocabulary.com***: This website gives easy-to-understand definitions and uses analogies, quizzes, and images to help reinforce different meanings of a word. It also has a “list” option where you can paste blocks of text, which the website will use to prioritize a list of challenging words for you to learn.

For refining your word choice:

* ***One Look Reverse Dictionary***: This website can take a phrasal verb (i.e. “go on,” “make up,” “talk about”) and turn it into a precise verb. Use this resource when you’re struggling to remember a specific word but have a general idea of the definition.
* ***Thesaurus.com***: This website categorizes synonyms by definition and word form. You can also click a particular synonym if you want more similar words as you develop a stronger sense of the meaning you want to convey.

For “awkward” phrasing:

* ***Ozdic.com***: This website pairs words with common modifiers, prepositions, etc. in example sentences. It also categorizes words by their parts of speech to help you ensure that you’re using them correctly.
* ***Englishpage.com***: This website is similar to Ozdic, but it offers more practice with using appropriate parts of speech. This resource includes dictionaries for phrasal verbs, prepositions + verbs, and irregular verbs and has tutorial exercises for various grammatical conventions.

For identifying repetitive words/phrases:

* Try the ***“find” function*** (Contrl+F for PCs, Command+F for Macs) to locate the frequency of a specific word/phrase in your own writing. You can also use this keyboard command to search PDFs and webpages more efficiently.
* ***Write Words***: If you’re not sure which redundant terms to look for in your writing, try http://www.writewords.org.uk/word\_count.asp. This website has both word and phrase frequency counters; just paste your text into the website.

For grammar help:

* ***Grammarly***: Paste your papers into Grammarly and get customized feedback on grammar and style mistakes. You can also download the plugin to your computer if you want Grammarly to check your writing in emails, social media, and other digital platforms.
* ***Paperrater***: This website can also check your drafts in their online editor, and it provides additional feedback on stylistic concerns and other sentence-level patterns in your writing.

For citations:

* ***Purdue OWL***: The Purdue Online Writing Lab provides citation guidelines for all the major formats and includes sample papers. If you don’t have a Hacker Style Manual handy, this website is a great alternative.
* ***Citation Machine and/or BibMe***: Both of these websites are from the creators of EasyBib but have access to all major citation styles (not just MLA). While we recommend practicing citations on your own, citation generators can be useful for more complicated sources or when you can’t find all the information about a source. If you find a text through the library databases, many of those also include automatic citation tools. *Just remember to check the citation against an official model (such as Purdue OWL or the Hacker Manual).*