

COMMON WRITING PROBLEMS SEEN IN THE WRITING CENTER AT MSU:

- **Thesis/focus:** writers generally tell all they know about a topic.
- **Organization:** keeping each paragraph focused on a separate idea is difficult.
- **Purpose:** writers generally cannot identify a reason for writing.
- **Audience:** little or no attention is given to audience because the teacher is seen as the only audience.
- **Revising:** a first draft is usually considered a final draft.
- **Assignment:** writers have difficulty understanding the requirements of the assignment.
- **Development:** ideas are generally underdeveloped.
- **Documentation:** writers are confused about or unaware of the type of documentation style to use.
- **Conclusions:** conclusions are generally foregone.
- **Conventions:** grammar, spelling, punctuation, usage errors are prevalent especially when writers are unclear about the assignment.