



# ANNUAL REPORT

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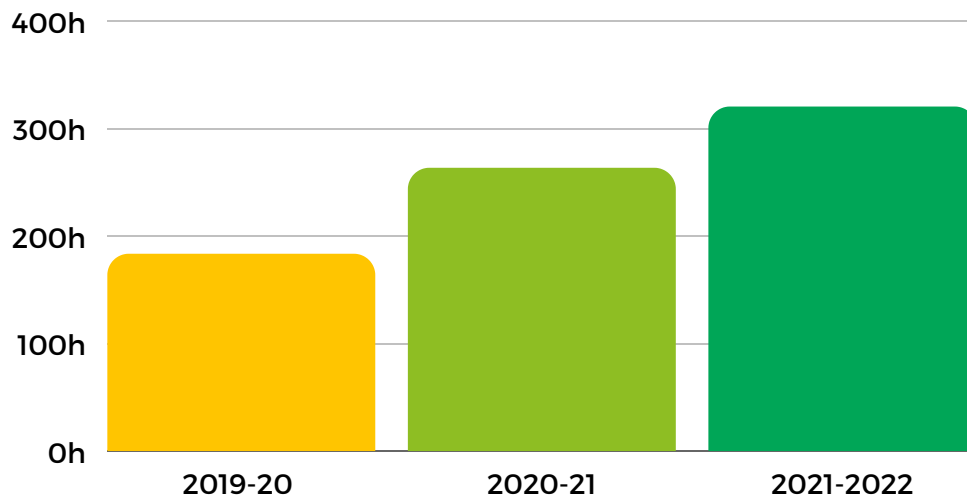
"We will create a community confident and fluent in the writing process, a community that sees writing as a tool for learning and fostering critical thinking."

**2021 - 2022**

**EDITION**

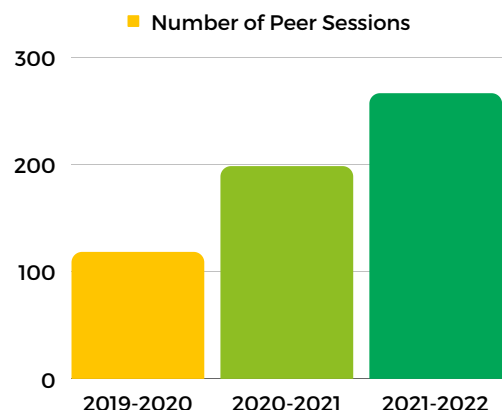
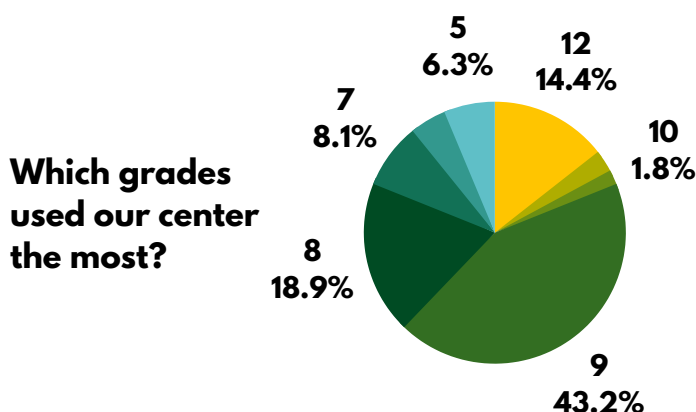
# TIME IN THE CENTER

We have increased the hours of one-on-one sessions in our center every year. As the chart below shows, more writers are spending more time with us.



# FULL SPEED AHEAD

Apart from individual students seeking writing help, we have also seen significant increases in every other aspect of what we do. We have **consulted** with more departments and teachers, given and developed more **workshops** for students as well as faculty, and extended our **global reach** in the community of writing centers by building our social media presence, personal connections, and **publication**.





# GLOBAL REACH

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We are the first and only student-staffed high school writing center in Turkey and one of the very few in the greater surrounding regions.

This puts us in a unique position to be a school of interest and influence on the global stage.

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

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4 of our student consultants attended a 2-day **international writing center conference** hosted by the SSWCA. Our students were able to participate in 15 different peer presentations and workshops.

Through this conference, we formed a local partnership with new writing centers in **Greece** and **Holland** which will be developed and expanded next year.

# MEMBERSHIPS

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We are active members and contributors to a wide range of writing center associations.

- International Writing Centers Association
- European Writing Centers Association
- Secondary School Writing Centers Association
- Middle East-North Africa Writing Centers Alliance



We have received 3 nominations to be representatives in the International Writing Centers Association - two peer nominations and one staff.





# PUBLICATION

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We published our third book with Columbia University's Student Press Initiative. It contains 70 pieces of writing and 15 pieces of visual art from high school students.

The idea behind *Versus* is juxtaposition, conflict, and how things relate and interact. As our previous two books have been, this book was open to submissions from the entire high school, but we worked closely with several departments on specific chapters, including **Art, Physical Education, Turkish, Creative Writing, AP Economics, and 11th grade AP English.**

This book is evidence of the rich and growing culture of writing at Hisar.

# PUBLICATION (CONTINUED)

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We had an article published in The International Educator.



Tom Fox, the director of The National Writing Project, toured our center, met with our consultants, and observed live sessions. He wrote about his experience and how impressed he was with our center and organization. The NWP works with thousands of schools across the United States in over 2,000 school districts.

You can read his article here:



He also put us in contact with the director of the **The New York Times** Learning Network. They expressed interest in writing about us.

## Cumhuriyet

We had an interview about our book and center published in Cumhuriyet and several other branch newspapers.



# STUDENT WORKSHOPS

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We created several writing workshops designed to address areas of need identified by our College Counseling department.

This year's workshops:

- **PSAT (YouTube Video Course)**
- **SAT**
- **IELTS**
- **UCAS**
- **U.S. College Essays**

The high school English department reported that students no longer need to come to them for help with their college application essays thanks to our help.

# SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

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Teachers sent small groups to our center to work on specific writing skills:

- **5th Grade**
  - **Space Week Creative Writing**
- **6th Grade**
  - **Turkish Poetry Translation**
- **8th Grade**
  - **Poetry**
  - **High School Entrance Exam Essays**
- **9th Grade**
  - **Literary Analysis**
  - **Website Design and Research**



# POP-UP WORKSHOPS

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Middle school English teachers have reached out to us to help their students with a variety of writing issues.

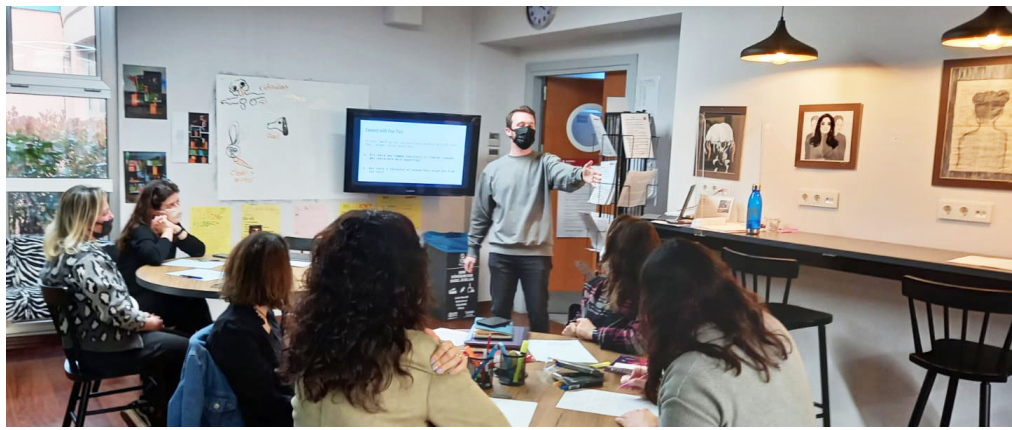
We developed targeted and engaging workshops, and in coordination with the teachers, crashed their classrooms with surprise workshops.

**5th Grade: Creative Writing - Show Don't Tell**

**7th Grade: Essay Writing - Hooks and Theses**







# FACULTY WORKSHOPS

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Every year faculty reach out to us for help with specific writing-related needs. This year we developed workshops for 4 different departments:

**Social Studies: Opinion and Counter Arguments**

**French: Creative Writing Course Design**

**English: Feedback for Writing**

**Preschool: Children's Book Writing**

Working with the Preschool department has been especially rewarding. Their goal is to write and publish their own children's books that will highlight the Hisar values. So far, they have written 4 wonderful stories!



# AUDIO / VISUAL

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## **Columbia University CPET Teacher Academy**

We advised Columbia University educators on how to plan and develop a training course to address Hisar's specific writing needs. We also created a series of video lessons for them to use in the Write to Learn online course.

## **PSAT Writing Prep Course**

We created a YouTube channel and a series of video lessons about writing for the PSAT.

## **Commercials and Training**

With the help of the Hisar Cultural Center, we produced commercials for our center as well as training videos for future writing consultants.





# FEEDBACK

"During the grade 5 story writing unit, the Writing Center and their intrepid tutors stormed our class and led stimulating and fun group workshops on the topic of "Show, Don't Tell". They energized and inspired my students with new ways of adding life to stories. An extraordinary day!"

- Michael Coertzen, Teacher

"For the students who are ready to go above and beyond, the writing center appointments have been wonderful as well. I have seen my students grow as writers and communicators, and they come back from a tutoring session with new ideas and inspiration to improve their writing."

- Diana Aivia, Teacher

*Responses to our post-session survey question:*

*Is there anything you wish had been different in your session?*

"Nothing! It was so nice, and I didn't even panic. Usually, I would."

"I wish that I had more time because it helped me a lot."

"No, I loved my session with my mentor."

**Do you feel more confident about your writing now?**

