

# The Bosphorus Project: Collaborating, not Prescribing, Writing Center Practice

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# *Why This Metaphor?*

- ◆ To bridge gaps between cultures, geographies, pedagogies
- ◆ To collaborate from both sides--not "In the US, we do it this way...so should you"
- ◆ To forge strong links that will endure.

# *Mixing Metaphors : A Hive-Mind Approach*

- ◆ Wiki as intellectual commons
- ◆ Shared labor--common goals
- ◆ Not "just another Web site."



# *Richmond's Role*

- ◆ Beekeeper, not bridge-builder (we all build)
- ◆ Or even Spider (one spinner)
- ◆ Strong International Education Program to assist us.





# *Influences : Intercultural Rhetoric*

- ◆ Work by Harris, Severino:  
Rhetorical situation &  
approach culturally relative
- ◆ Do your tutors “teach” or  
“help”: a Q for American  
colleagues
- ◆ Work by Straub:  
How directive? facilitative?



# *Influences: Empowering Adjunct Faculty in US*

- ◆ Crisis in first-year comp
- ◆ Richmond response:  
integrate fyc with Center,  
WAC Program
- ◆ A resource for professional  
tutors here?



# *Bosporus So Far*

- ◆ Design of Learning Spaces: Architecture, Budgeting, Design, Aesthetics
- ◆ Materials for Writing Tutors and Fellows
- ◆ Materials for Writing Teachers
- ◆ Materials to Assist with Online Tutoring
- ◆ Links to Participating Institutions
- ◆ Pedagogical and logistical questions & list of needs.

A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge at night, illuminated with blue lights. The bridge's towers and suspension cables are visible against a dark blue sky and water.

# *Some Considerations & a Question*

- ◆ Discussion space for each page
- ◆ Advertising minimal

But.....

- ◆ Why did I choose a commercial product?





# *Bosporus Needs....*

- ◆ Your content! But especially,
- ◆ Descriptions of how tutoring works at your schools
- ◆ Best OWL practices
- ◆ Photos of your centers
- ◆ Outlines of pedagogical differences between cultures
- ◆ Advice for professional tutors & not simply peer-tutors.



# *My Tutors' Questions*

- ◆ Why so many professional tutors in Europe?
- ◆ What are credentials for professional tutors? Peer tutors?
- ◆ What feedback loop exists between faculty & tutors?
- ◆ How do “honor codes” influence tutoring?
- ◆ How are tutors trained?

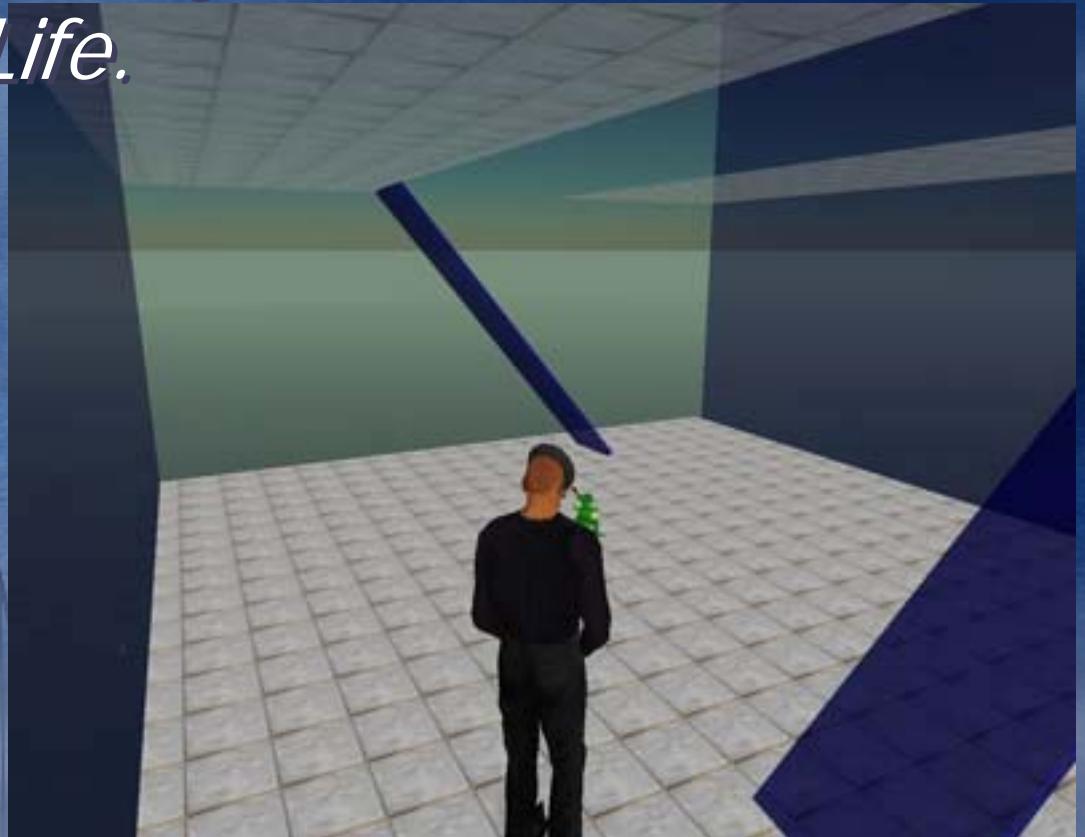


## *Questions Continued...*

- ◆ What motivates students' visits to Centers? How many are forced?
- ◆ Is the pedagogy different for tutoring in the nation's language & not English?
- ◆ Should tutors be bilingual (my students want jobs).

# *A Futuristic Service for Bosphorus*

- ◆ 3D learning-space mock-ups through Linden Lab's *Second Life*.



# *Building spaces we can test*



# *Where we can make mistakes*



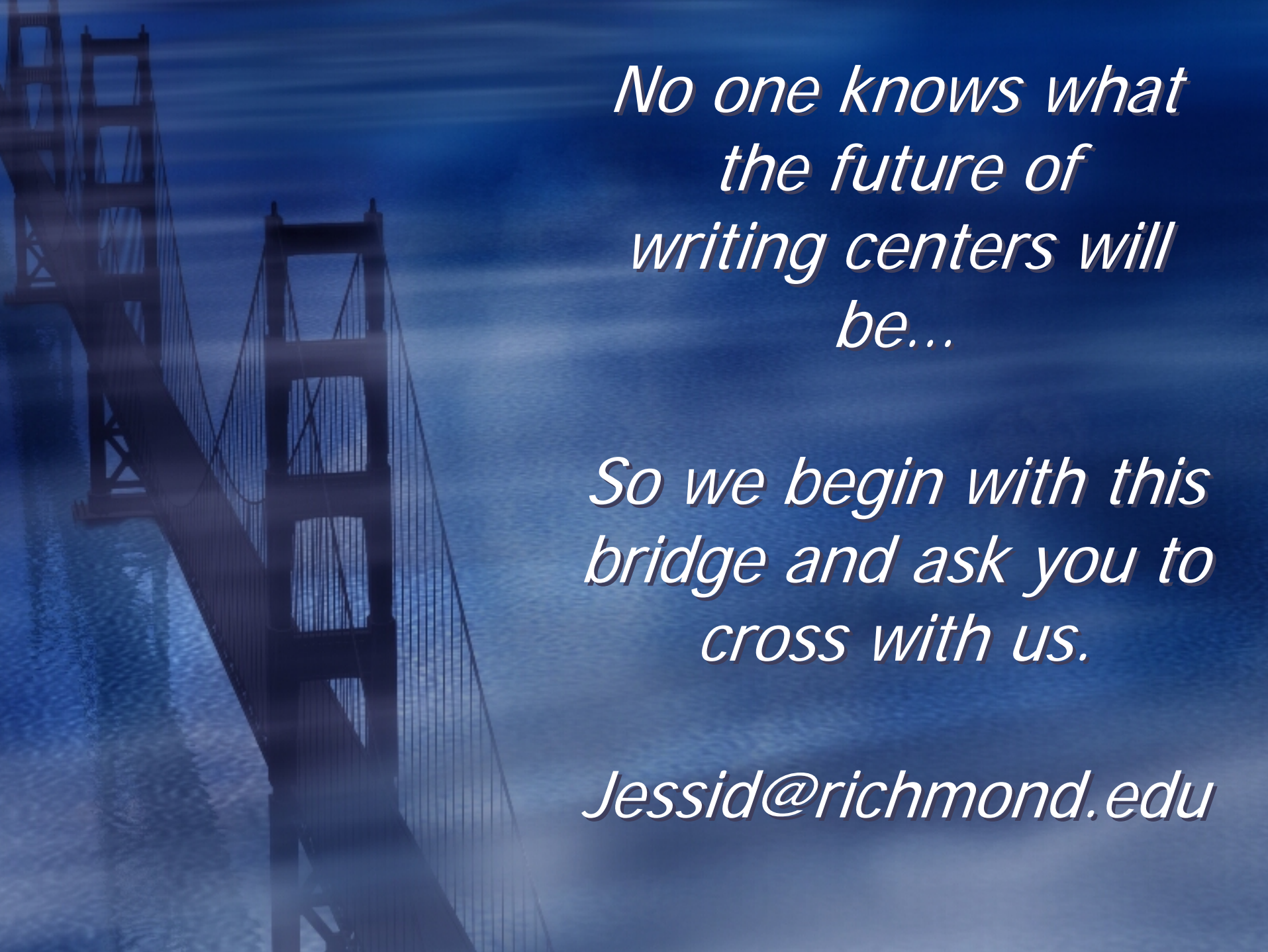
# *Where we can provide alternative learning spaces*



*Or improve traditional ones*







*No one knows what  
the future of  
writing centers will  
be...*

*So we begin with this  
bridge and ask you to  
cross with us.*

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