Due dates for your end of the semester research writing and research project assignments are fast approaching! To help, we have set up several dates and times over the next three weeks to help TRiO students with any research assignments—or any writing assignments—for any class!

**Added Bonuses For Attending:**

- Counts as TRiO Workshop or Tutor requirement!
- Enter to win a FREE BOOK: *The Book Thief*
- Librarian Brittney Thomas will be on hand to help!

*Feel free to come by anytime during the available hours to receive help with any research or writing assignment you are working on!*

**Help Session Dates, Times, and Locations:**

- **Thursday, April 19th:** 9-11 a.m. in Baxter 100 computer lab
- **Thursday, April 19th:** 4-6 p.m. in Baxter 102 computer lab
- **Monday, April 23rd:** 9-11 a.m. in Baxter 102 computer lab
- **Wednesday, April 25th:** 4-6 p.m. in Baxter 102 computer lab
- **Tuesday, May 1st:** 9-11 a.m. in Baxter 102 computer lab
- **Tuesday, May 1st:** 4-6 p.m. in Baxter 102 computer lab

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions: trio@ic.edu; Tammy Hayes: 217-245-3575.

**Upcoming Workshop: Memory Enhancement!**

Only two workshops left, and time is running out! Next **Wednesday, April 25th, at 4:30, in Kirby 108**, you will learn techniques to help you increase your ability to retain and retrieve information!

A complete workshop listing for the spring semester can be found at [http://www.ic.edu/RelId/622610/ISvars/default/Spring_2012_Workshop_Series.htm](http://www.ic.edu/RelId/622610/ISvars/default/Spring_2012_Workshop_Series.htm)
The Grad School Application Process: An Offer I Couldn’t Refuse

To prepare for the grad school search, I started big. I looked at what programs were offered at schools I had a general interest in and then looked at which ones were the best. I decided on three very ambitious schools on the east coast—all ranked top five in the nation. After starting the application process first semester of my senior year (since most applications are due early February, if not sooner), I began to realize that I didn’t want to be so far from home. So, the search began again.

If I had known that just finding a grad school, let alone applying to one was so time consuming, I would have started a lot sooner—like junior year. Honestly, the amount of work I put into applying to grad school was about as much work as I put in for my classes, not to mention the ton of money needed for application fees and the GRE test. Even just getting all my materials in order—such as letters of recommendation and transcripts—required work and planning. After I had everything in and mailed off, I now had some free time…to wait. The waiting was definitely the worst part.

I wasn’t sure what I was going to do if I didn’t get accepted into grad school. I’d be terribly disappointed if I didn’t get in, not only because of all the work I had put in, but also because I wanted very badly to continue my education. Now that I’ve been accepted—with a full ride and assistantship stipend—I can breathe a little easier. However, those first steps, now that I think back on them, where terrifying and life changing. I am so glad that I didn’t let my fear of being “a big kid” stop me from applying. Although my initial search started big—with top schools 3,000 miles away in places I’d never been—I’m glad I was able to realize that I could want something bigger for myself. I talked to Andrew, Cara, Jason, and professors I have had on campus a lot about my decision-making process before finally deciding if grad school was the right choice for me—or if taking a few years off and working would be a better option. For me, Illinois State University’s offer was an opportunity I could not pass up. They are actually paying me to go there—how crazy?!

Something I realized, though, was that with all the stress of deciding and applying, I could always ask for help. Whether it was for letters of recommendation, someone to read over my application essay, or to just give me advice or tell me about when they went to grad school, I always had the support of my professors and the TRiO staff. And, who knows, maybe I’ll still end up at those big-name schools…there’s always my doctorate.

Help for ALL Class Presentations: Contact the Speech Center!

Need help with a presentation? The Speech Center can help with a presentation for any class, not just speech classes. Sessions are by appointment during the hours below.

- **Mondays:** 12-6
- **Tuesdays:** 11-8
- **Wednesdays:** 10a.m.-2p.m. & 2:30-8 p.m.
- **Thursdays:** 11-6
- **Fridays:** 11-2

Contact Adam Jones for an appointment:
- adam.jones@mail.ic.edu
- 217-245-3729

The TRiO Tribune