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WRITING IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: HOW THE WRITING CENTER CAN EMPOWER STUDENTS TO BECOME KNOWERS OF APA DISCOURSE STYLE
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University students writing APA style papers are often confused because of ambiguous rules or gaps in knowledge from the various “authorities”--instructors, handbooks, and even the APA Manual. This confusion arises, in part, from the different audiences that the various authorities are addressing. This confusion is brought to the Writing Center where consultants must attempt to help the student negotiate these “blind spots.” Using responses from faculty and students to surveys regarding the teaching and the learning of writing in the social sciences, the presenters will show how consultants can empower students to take the partial knowledges they are given and transform these into working systems of knowledge--epistemologies--that enable them to participate more fully in their chosen disciplines. In order to show how consultants at IPFW may assist our writer clients more effectively, the presenters will also show the handbook that is being compiled from this research.