## UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER 20+ years of student success www.csulb.edu/uwc (562) 985 – 5162 SSC – 245

## Who vs. Whom

**Overview:** Relative pronouns, such as *who* and *whom*, can be tricky because many writers are unclear about the specific rules regarding their use. Students often decide to completely eliminate *whom* from their

Who and whom are both relative pronouns, which means that they function to connect a clause to the rest of a sentence. In other words, relative pronouns are found in sentences that contain more than one clause, and they relate to a specific word or phrase that they modify. Who and whom are usually used only in relation to people. In the following example, who ris used in reference to
sed in reference to the object of a sentence. The subject is what the object is the receiver of the action. Therefore, who relates to s to the pronouns "him," "her," and "us." In the following sentence, "Michael" is the subject.

Aichael cared for deeply. o reword the clause with "her": "Michael cared for *her* deeply.")

ith who or whom. Again, if you are not sure what acts as the subject stion as a statement, replacing who/whom with he or him, and see les below:

y candy bar.

ne new job listing? I had him in mind for the new job listing.

Copyright (C) 2016. All rights reserved. This handout is part of a library of instructional materials used in California State University, Long Beach's writing center, the Writer's Resource Lab. Educators and students are welcome to distribute copies as long as they do so with attribution to all organizations and authors. Commercial distribution is prohibited.

## Compound Forms of Who/Whom

Who and whom function in the same way in their compound forms, whoever and whomever.

• Whoever volunteers to cover my shift is a great frieih whoeever

Copyright (C) 2016. All rights reserved. This handout is part of a library of instructional materials used in California State University, Long Beach's writing center, the Writer's Resource Lab. Educators and students are welcome to distribute copies as long as they do so with attribution to all organizations and authors. Commercial distribution is prohibited.