Wells College Writing Center *Grammar Hammer*

Who vs. Whom

**Who**and **whom** are relative pronouns, which means that they are used as a substitute for a noun.

**Who** should be used to refer to the subject of a sentence, and **whom** should be used to refer to the object of a verb or preposition.

When you’re not sure whether you should use **who** or **whom**, remember: If you can replace the word with “he”’ or “’she,” use who. If you can replace it with “him” or “her,” use whom.

**Using who:  
 *Who*** would like to go on vacation? (**He/she** would.)  
 ***Who*** made these delicious quesadillas? (**He/she** did.)

In these examples, *who* is acting as the subject in the same way that *he/she* is.

**Using whom:**

You called ***whom***? (I called **him/her.**)

I deliver the pizza to ***whom***? (I deliver it to him/her).

In these examples, the word *whom* is acting as an object.

**In the first sentence,** the word whom is acting as the object of the verb “call.” Whom did you call? I called him. It describes the person you called.

**In the second sentence,** the word whom is acting as the object of the preposition “to.” To whom did you deliver the pizza? I delivered the pizza to him. It describes the person to whom you delivered the pizza (to him).