

Writing Seminar (WWRT.150.14)

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Course Description

Writing Seminar at RIT teaches writing as a way of learning, and as a process of communicating what we have learned to others. We will pay particular attention to the writing process, including an emphasis on reading, class discussion, formal and informal writing, research, revision, self assessment, and peer review.

Ex: “Writing About Writing”

What’s the best way to learn to write? What causes writer’s block, and how do you get rid of it? How are digital communication technologies such as e-mail, text-messaging, blogs, and wikis changing the way we write—and with what consequences? These are the kinds of questions writing researchers wonder about. In this section of writing seminar, you will read, research, and write about the subject of writing.

You will write both in class and outside. You will share your writing and respond to the writing of your classmates. To develop your understanding of writing, reading, learning and literacy, you will study secondary research. You will also become a contributor to the scholarly conversation by engaging in primary research. By the end of the course you will have developed your writing and critical abilities, and learned a great deal about the role of writing in your intellectual life, and in the larger, global context.

Objectives and Outcomes

- You will study writing as situated, motivated discourse.
- You will study the conversational and knowledge-creating nature of researched writing.
- You will practice identifying available choices in writing and making the best choice.
 - You will practice producing interesting texts that reflect academic conventions.
 - You will learn ways to discuss academic writing and reading.
 - You will practice critical thinking and critical reading.
 - You will collect, evaluate, select, and integrate material from a variety of sources into your writing.

Required Materials

- A campus e-mail account
- Course materials available via MyCourses. (You are expected to log on frequently for course information and updates.). Most required reading is available on MyCourses and must be brought to class.

Schedule of Readings, Assignments, and Class Activities

WEEK 1**Wednesday****Introductions – The course, who we all are****Friday****Class Discussion, In-Class Writing****2****Monday****Goals and Expectations**

Home Work:

Read: "Goals and Expectations" & "Getting Closer"

Write in Journal: Goals and Expectations

Wednesday**Critique Guidelines, Benefits of Writing**

Read:

Resilience

Homework:

Write in Journal: Yelp Reviews

Friday**Class Discussion, In-Class Writing****3****Monday****Avoiding Writers Block, Mindfulness**

Homework:

Read: "The Voices in my Head", Jack Handley

Write in Journal: Inventory of Feelings

Wednesday**Nature Observation**

Homework:

Read: "Peach Be With You"

Write in Journal: Nature Observation

Friday**Class Discussion, In-Class Writing****4****Monday****Narrative Essay**

Homework:

Read: Why I write, George Orwell

Wednesday**Narrative Essay**

Homework:

Read: Self Reliance, Ralph Waldo Emerson

Friday**Class Discussion, In-Class Writing****5****Monday****Self Expression**

Homework:

Assignment #1**Wednesday****Essay Editing Tips**

Homework:

Continue to work on Assignment #1

Friday**Class Discussion, In-Class Writing****6****Monday****Poetry**

Homework: Read: A Human Family, Howard Kogan
Write Poem
Submit Assignment #1

Wednesday **Fables**
Homework: Write Fable

Friday **Class Discussion, In-Class Writing**

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Monday **Short Story**
Homework: Read: A Piece of Steak, Jack London

Wednesday **Flash Fiction**
Homework: Read: "Taylor Swift" by Hugh Behm-Steinberg
Assignment #2

Friday **Class Discussion, In-Class Writing**

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Monday **Fiction Editing**
Homework: Continue to work on Assignment #2

Wednesday **Interview**
Homework: Conduct and Write Interview
Submit Assignment #2

Friday **Class Discussion, In-Class Writing**

(Remaining Semester - TBD)

Assignments/ Final Portfolio

#1: Write a 2-to3 page Narrative Essay

#2: Write a 750 to 1,500 Word Short Story

#3: TBD

#4 TBD

Final Portfolio, containing edited assignments #1, #2, #3, and #4.

Establishing your final grade:

Attendance, Participation, In-Class Writing 30%

Assignments 1-3	30%	
Assignment 4		20%
Final Portfolio		20%