What all counts as writing in my course?

Oct. 20, 2022

National Day on Writing

Know and Go!

University Center for Assessment, Teaching & Technology

WAC
WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Arizona

Meet our Facilitators

She/Her Pronouns

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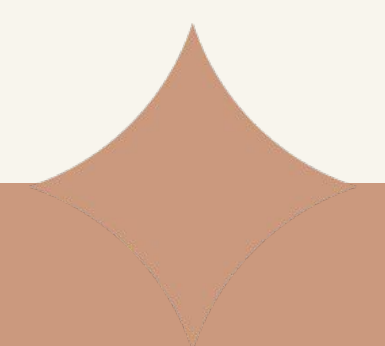She/Her Pronouns

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Today's Overview

- What is National Day on Writing?
- What is writing?
- Writing components
- Types of writing
- Writing Attribute 60% policy
- Future events and contact information

What is National Day on Writing?

National Day on Writing® is an annual event on October 20th created by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The event aims to celebrate writing and its importance in our society today. Use #WhyIWrite to join the conversation!

NCTE National Council of Teachers of English®

{#WHY I WRITE}

What is writing?

We often think of writing in academic contexts as primarily essays and professional/business documents — text organized into paragraphs or sections on a page — but there's so much more to it!

So... what is it, then?

Here's what we know:

- Writing is both an activity and a subject of study.
- Writing is a social and rhetorical activity.
- Writing enacts and creates identities.
- Writing is impacted by prior experience.
- Writing is a labor-intensive process (and labor is cognitive/affective and embodied).
- *All* writers have more to learn.

See Adler-Kassner & Wardle (2016): *Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies*

Writing Components

Writing can have multiple components:

- **Contexts:** rhetorical situations, purposes, audiences, genres
- **Ideation:** brainstorming, idea mapping, reading, research, analyses
- **Drafting:** outlining, "vomit" drafts, writing sprints, organizing, initial editing and proofreading, analyses
- **Revision:** re-analyzing, reverse outline, implementing feedback, re-organizing, editing and proofreading

Contexts / situations

Ideation stages

WRITING COMPONENTS

Drafting stages

Revision stages

Naming Our Writing

Writing to Analyze and/or Evaluate

- Artistic, Literary, or Historical Critique
- Book, Film, Theatre, Music, or Product Review
- Literature Review of Scholarship
- Ethnography
- Case Study
- Scientific Evaluation of a Problem
- Reflective Personal Narrative or Autoethnography

Writing to Argue and/or Propose

- Policy Memo
- Proposal (Research, Grant, Conference, etc.)
- Recommendation Report or Proposed Solution
- Recovery or Corrective Argument
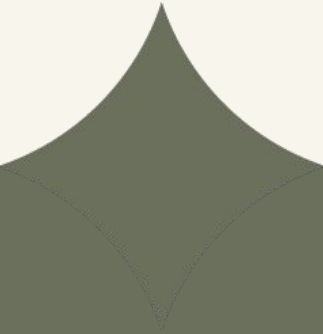- Research Poster (Print and/or Digital)
- Legal Brief
- Op-Ed

Writing to Summarize and/or Inform

- Informative / Laboratory Report
- Multimedia Informative Report
- Executive Summary
- Abstract (Research, Grant, Conference, etc.)
- Personal Statement
- Annotated Bibliography
- Empirical Research Poster
- Risk Assessment Report

Writing to/with Communities

- Community Report
- Translation of Policy
- Testimonio
- Participatory Action Research
- Counterstory Critique

Writing is also...

- Annotations on readings
- Fliers & infographics
- Poster presentations
- Podcasts
- Peer review responses
- Assignment guides

- Brainstorming & outlines
- Emails & text messages
- Class notes and in-class writing
- To-do lists
- Social media posts
- Data tables & descriptions

60% Plus Policy

Various forms of writing can count toward the requirement of *at least* 60% or more of graded required coursework involving writing.

For example: in-class activities, homework, and/or other writing-to-learn tasks may equal a small percentage individually but then eventually accrue to a larger percentage cumulatively.

60% Plus Policy

This means you can…
- Assign lots of low-stakes writing
  - (I.E. writing tasks or activities graded for only a few points or for completion)
- Assign peer review activities
- Scaffold larger assignments with meaningful smaller assignments or activities
- Have multiple signature assignments
- Conceive of writing more broadly

60% Examples

Graded Item	Total Points	Writing Attribute Points
Playposit quizzes (50 @ 1 point)	50	0
D2L quizzes (25 @ 14 points)	350	0
Discussions (8 @ 20 points)	160	160
Module writing assignments (8 @ 35 points)	280	280
Signature assignment: Lit Review (3 parts: 20, 120, and 20 points)	160	160
Total Points for Course	**1000**	**600 (=60%)**

Graded Item	Total Points	Writing Attribute Points
Reflections (5 @ 10 points)	50	50
Coding activities (7 @ 50 points)	350	350
Exams (4 @ 50 points)	200	0
Lab assignments (8 @ 25 points)	200	200
Signature assignment: Research Poster (3 parts: 25, 75, 100 points)	200	200
Total Points for Course	**1000**	**800 (=80%)**

Example 1
From Dr. Orchard, Quick Start Cohort 3
(used with permission)

Example 2
Sample Quantitative Reasoning & Writing Attribute
Course Grade & Assignment Distribution

Takeaways

- There are many types of writing happening in all classes all the time, no matter the content area.
- We can value many types of writing in our classrooms and facilitate practice with different types of writing to help students develop a more flexible writing toolkit for the future.

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