

Delta College

English 111A-FA165: Writing Methods/College Composition I

Instructor: H.M. Kanicki

Class Location/Time:

S058

Tues/Thurs, 11:30 am - 1:55 pm

Office Information:

By Appointment

Required Course Textbooks & Materials:

Title: *Keys for Writers* 3rd ed.

1 - notebook, 1 - binder

Author: Ann Raimes & Maria Jerskey

A sense of humor & willingness to learn

Publisher: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning

Course Description & Outcomes:

This course introduces students to expository and persuasive writing. Students will:

- 1) Write formal college compositions for a specific audience and purpose using a writing process - specifically: create, organize and present ideas in paper format using detail and outside sources to support reflections.
- 2) Use writing tasks that involve both reading and writing to develop critical thinking skills and derive meaning from textual pieces.

Grade Scale & Course Break-Down:

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|------------|------------|----------------------------|-----|
| A (93-100) | C (73-76) | In-Class/Quizzes | 10% |
| A- (90-92) | C- (70-72) | Contrasting Description | 10% |
| B+ (87-89) | D+ (67-69) | Presentation | 10% |
| B (83-86) | D (63-66) | Autobiographical Narrative | 15% |
| B- (80-82) | F (0-62) | Informative Article | 15% |
| C+ (77-79) | | Argument Essay | 20% |
| | | Final Exam | 20% |

Some Tips on How to Pass This Course:

- 1) Take excellent notes while you read as well as in class.
- 2) Keep everything until the end of the semester, including electronic copies of your papers.
- 3) Keep your sense of humor.
- 4) Lather, rinse and repeat.

Course Policies:

Attendance: After 4 absences, you will automatically fail the course and I will drop you. If you will be unable to attend class regularly, I recommend taking it at a more convenient time.

Technology: For this class, you will be required to type **all** of your papers. Technological issues such as “my printer broke” or “my computer crashed” are no excuse for lateness as there are

computers at the Delta main campus, the Ricker Center and the Planetarium for you to use. Please take the responsibility on yourself to complete assignments early in case of an issue.

Late Papers/Extensions: Due dates are listed in the course calendar. **I will not accept papers after that date for any reason.** If absent, email them to me by **the end of class** on the due date. After that deadline, you receive an automatic and irreversible zero. If needed, I do offer extensions if notified 24-48 hours before the paper due date. Extensions will not be given after the due date.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism (the use of another person's words, ideas, images, etc.) is a serious offense, and is akin to stealing. If a student is found to be plagiarizing, depending on the severity, he will either 1) fail the assignment irrevocably or 2) fail the course and be reported to the proper authorities. ***This is your only warning.***

Paper Requirements:

All papers **must** use Times New Roman, 12 point font; be double spaced; use MLA formatting. No handwritten papers will be accepted. Papers that do not meet the minimum page and source requirements will receive a lower grade. Do not include your title and works cited pages in your final count. A works cited page and proper MLA citations **MUST** accompany all assignments.

Paper and Assignment Descriptions:

In-class Assignments/Quizzes:

- In-class assignments will be completed during class time unless there are time constraints.
- Quizzes will be given at my discretion if I feel students are not reading the assigned material.
- **No make-ups.**

Contrasting Description Assignment:

- Length = 1-2 pages
- Location for observation is entirely up to the student.
- Failure to provide both positive and negative descriptions will result in either low or no score.
- Write-ups must show understanding and usage of the different types of description.

Autobiographical Narrative:

- Length = 2-3 pages
- Recommendation: choose a situation that had an impact on your life, or where you learned a valuable life lesson.
- **Must** be written in short story form. Narratives that appear to be "paper-like" will receive significantly lower points.

Informative Article:

- Length = 3-4 pages; Sources required = 3 min.
- Format your piece as an **academic essay**.
- Topics must be pre-approved before beginning work.

- WRITING WORKSHOP SHEETS must be included with final draft in order to receive full credit.
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Argument Paper:

- Length = 4-5 pages; Sources required = 4 min.
 - Paper will be graded in stages.
 - Suggested topics (note that they are fairly large and open to interpretation):
 1. Euthanasia
 2. Smoking Ban
 3. Censorship
 4. Pornography
 5. Marijuana
 6. Free agency in sports
 7. Homosexuals in the military
 8. Animal Experimentation
 - Other topics **must** be approved before beginning assignment.
 - Some research is necessary, but **avoid** writing a standard research paper.
 - WRITING WORKSHOP SHEETS must be included with final draft in order to receive full credit.
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Presentation:

- Length = 10 minutes
- Topic: can use either argument or informational topic from previous assignments
- Requirements: 1 visual and 1 handout which must be referred to during presentation

Course Calendar:

Tuesday, August 31

Introduction to Course

Powerpoint: "A Few Literary Terms"

Homework:

Email Professor Kanicki

Thursday, September 2

The Writing Process

Homework:

Read pages 3-27 in *Keys*

Tuesday, September 7

Labor Day BREAK

Thursday, September 9

Paragraphs & Parts of a Paper

Thesis Statements

Homework:

Read pages 27-31, 36-40 in *Keys*

Tuesday, September 14

Thinking Rhetorically

The 5 General Purposes in Writing

Thursday, September 16

Writing to Learn

Description

Tuesday, September 21

Contrasting Description Assignment

Thursday, September 23

Writing to Explore
Discussion of Klein and "The Stolen Watch"
The Autobiographical Narrative

Homework:

Begin Autobiographical Narrative

Tuesday, September 28

Writing to Inform
Informative Articles - Prewriting Steps

Homework:

Complete Autobiographical Narrative Draft

Thursday, September 30

Autobiographical Narrative Draft DUE
Writing Workshop

Homework:

Edit draft of Autobiographical Narrative

Tuesday, October 5

Autobiographical Narrative DUE
Library Instruction

Homework:

Read pages 126-145 in *Keys*

Thursday, October 7

Searching for and Evaluating Sources
Discussion of Chapter 7-8 in *Keys*

Tuesday, October 12

MLA
Annotated Bibliographies
Gathering Sources for Informative Article

Homework:

Complete Annotated Bibliography for
Informative Article sources

Thursday, October 14

Annotated Bibliography DUE
MLA Continued
Begin Informative Article

Tuesday, October 19

Fragments & Run-ons

Homework:

Complete Informative Article Draft
Read pages 392-398

Thursday, October 21

Informative Article Draft DUE
Writing Workshop

Tuesday, October 26

Conferences

Thursday, October 28

Halloween Party
SNACKS WELCOME!
Film

Homework:

Edit Informative Article

Tuesday, November 2
Informative Article DUE
Style: The 5 C's
C's 1-3

Homework:
Read pages 351-360 in *Keys*

Thursday, November 4
Style: The 5 C's
C's 4-5

Homework:
Read pages 361-377 in *Keys*
Read Chavez article
Read Pitts article

Tuesday, November 9
Writing to Persuade
Tone in Writing
Discussion of Pitts & Chavez

Homework:
Complete Steps 1 & 2 for Argument Paper
Read Taylor article

Thursday, November 11
Steps 1 & 2 for Argument DUE
Organization and Taylor article
Begin Step 3 for Argument Paper

Homework:
Complete Step 3 for Argument Paper

Tuesday, November 16
Step 3 for Argument Paper DUE
Search for sources for Argument Paper
Begin rough draft

Homework:
Complete Argument Paper Draft 1

Thursday, November 18
Argument Paper Draft 1 DUE
Writing Workshop

Tuesday, November 23
Conferences

Thursday, November 25
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Homework:
Edit Argument Paper Draft 1

Tuesday, November 30
Argument Paper Draft 2 DUE
Writing Workshop
Creating Presentations

Thursday, December 2
Conferences

Homework:
Edit Argument Paper Draft 2

Tuesday, December 7
Final Argument Paper DUE
Presentations

Thursday, December 9
Presentations

Tuesday, December 14
Final Exam Review

Thursday, December 16
Final Exam