WRT 106: Introduction to Research Writing

First Year Writing • Department of Writing & Rhetoric
Harrington School of Communication & Media University of Rhode Island

Spring 2020 – WRT 106-0009

Instructor:	Dr. Adrienne Jones Daly
WRT Office/Mailbox:	
E-mail:	
Meet with Instructor (Office Hours):	
Class Days/Time:	
Classroom Location:	

Course Description

Welcome to WRT 106! You have chosen a course that will challenge your knowledge and practice of writing, as well as your understanding of yourself as a writer. This course fulfills a General Education requirement and focuses on research-based writing. It covers working with sources and the research process, including conducting interviews, observations, and database searches. In addition, this course provides extensive practice in writing effectively and using information technologies. These two competencies, required for the general education program at URI, are integrated into the assignments and activities of this course.

In completing this course successfully, you will become more confident in using a number of writing strategies; you'll be able to respond effectively to the writing of others; you'll recognize different genres and purposes and be able to adapt to different audiences or demands. Generally speaking, at the end of this class, you'll be better prepared to face any writing task.

This course is a blended course, which means that part of your instruction is delivered online and part in face-to-face class participation. This course has been set up so that Thursdays are our face-to-face session and then you work through the assigned materials and tasks on your own outside of class. This set-up requires you to manage your time carefully to stay on top of assignments and readings.

Mandatory Requirements

1. Completion of all three Major Projects;
2. Active and consistent participation in all class work, including responses and reflections, class discussions, peer review, and collaborative work;
3. Preparation for each class and helpful contributions to class discussion; and
4. Regular attendance (see below) and communication with instructor.

Required Texts

Abbreviations for the texts as used in schedule are noted in square brackets.

- Required: Palmquist, *The Bedford Researcher* (6th edition, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012) [BR]
- Required: Reynolds and Davis, *Portfolio Keeping, (*3rd edition, Bedford St. Martin's, 2013) [PK]
- Optional: Bullock and Weinberg, *The Little Seagull Handbook* (2nd edition, Norton, 2014) [LSH]

Learning Outcomes for WRT 106

Students in this course are expected to show evidence of progress towards the eleven learning outcomes listed below.

1.   Writing Effectively
Upon completion of WRT 106, students will be able to:

- Complete substantial writing projects that meet expectations for focus, development, organization, and coherence.
- Revise and edit to meet conventions of standard Englishes.
- Demonstrate awareness of readers' needs and expectations for prose style, genres, conventions, and citation.
- Reflect upon and explain the appropriateness of their choices for the rhetorical situation and utilize feedback that addresses both revision and editing.
- Research, synthesize, analyze, critique, explain, argue, and explore in a variety of writing assignments.

2. Information Literacy
Upon completion of WRT 106, students will be able to:

- Develop a research question about a topic that focuses both their inquiry and their writing activity.
- Learn how to navigate databases and various search engines.
- Apply the CRAAP test to all sources.
- Produce a Multimodal Public Document targeted to a specific audience who needs the information.
- Attribute sources appropriately in written documents.
- Cite sources accurately and ethically in written documents.

Additional Course Objectives

The following course objectives are particular to this section of WRT 106 and help to frame some of the values of this course:

3. Lifelong Learning
- To become lifelong seekers of knowledge and wisdom
- To be curious, thoughtful, and responsible researchers
- To challenge ourselves and unsettle our certainties

Sakai & Eli Review

The blended nature of this course means you will rely heavily on online tools to participate in course work, submit assignments, and do peer review. The primary online tool is our course Sakai site (sakai.uri.edu). Please be sure to check it regularly and to have your e-mail address up to date. The instructor often communicates through Sakai Messages.

We'll be using Eli Review (elireview.com) this semester for peer review activities. We'll talk more about how to use Eli in class, and you can also find more information on their Student Resource pages. You'll need to enroll online with the course code listed here: beyond732desks

Engaging in Your Learning

In other words: Attendance and Participation. The small-class environment of WRT classes makes dedicated attendance and full participation the responsibility of each and every class member. Due to the nature of the blended course, your attendance and participation in the face-to-face sessions, the online class sessions, and peer review are essential to your success and to the success of your classmates.

Deadlines and Due Dates

Deadlines for all assignments are posted on Sakai, on the schedule, and on the assignment sheets. Unless special arrangements have been made with me, points will be deducted from late work. You must complete all Major Projects in order to pass the course.

I have a policy of revise and resubmit. You are welcome, but not required, to revise and resubmit projects after you receive the final grade for them. If your revisions have substantially improved the quality of the project, then I give you a higher final grade for the project. (If revisions have not made substantial improvements, your grade does not change; I will never lower a grade if you revise and resubmit.) Please let me know if you plan on resubmitting. I will accept resubmissions throughout the semester, but Tuesday, April 28 (the last day of class) is the very latest to resubmit (11:59 pm).**Formatting Papers**

Academic Honesty

Courtesy & Technology Use

Note on Access & Inclusive Learning

Getting the Help You Need (Campus Resources)

Final Grade Distribution

Grades for this course will be calculated as follows:

- Course Participation: Attendance, research logs, peer review, etc. 20%

- Major Projects:
  - Research Proposal 20%
  - Annotated Bibliography 20%
  - Multimodal Public Document 25%
- Final Learning Reflection 15%

Final Exams

Instead of an exam, you have a Final Learning Reflection (FLR). Your Final Learning Reflection is due no later than 11:59 pm on Tuesday, May 5. If your submission is up to 24 hours late, you will lose a letter grade on the Final Learning Reflection. If your submission is over 24 hours late, it will not be accepted.

URI Grading Scale

A 93 ● A- 90 ● B+ 88 ● B 83 ● B- 80 ● C+ 78 ● C 73 ● C- 70 ● D+ 68 ● D 63 ● F 59

Semester Schedule

Please note that this schedule may change. Your instructor will notify you of any changes, and check Sakai for up-to-date information.

		Topics and Major Deadlines
UNIT 1 - Research Proposal	Week 1	- Introduction to the course (syllabus, objectives, assignments) - Ideas around research - Introduction to Project 1 – Research Proposal - Brainstorming, Narrowing, Choosing Topic
	Week 2	- The research process - Identifying & finding sources to develop working knowledge - Defining purpose in terms of public good - Developing effective search strategies - Engaging with ideas
	Week 3	- Writing workshop: Working on proposal in class - Getting set up on Eli Review (Bring laptop) - Elements of a successful peer review - Reading strategies - Draft 1 of Research Proposal DUE + PEER REVIEW
	Week 4	- Evaluating sources & CRAAP Test - Reading & annotating a source - Discussion of peer review & revision plans - Revision plan DUE - Formatting citations & bibliographies - Final draft of Project 1 DUE + Postwrite
UNIT 2 – Annotated Bibliography	Week 5	- Introducing Project 2 – The Annotated Bibliography - Using sources effectively - Managing sources and assets - Draft of one Citation + Annotation DUE + PEER REVIEW
	Week 6	- Discussion of peer review & revision plans - Revision plan DUE - Quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing - Writing workshop: Drafting Project 2 - Full draft of Project 2 DUE + PEER REVIEW
	Week 7	- Discussion of peer review & revision plans - Revision plan DUE - Writing workshop: Bring materials to work on Project 2 - Final version of Project 2 DUE + Postwrite
	Week 8	SPRING BREAK

	Week 9	• Introducing Project 3 – The Multimodal Public Document • Campus resources to use for multimodal projects • Writing a thesis statement • Drafting & organizing an argument • Writing workshop: Drafting Outline & Rationale • Draft of Outline & Rationale DUE + PEER REVIEW
UNIT 3 – Multimodal Public Document	Week 10	• Discussion of peer review & revision plans • Revision plan DUE • Design principles • Tools of argument • First draft of multimodal project DUE + PEER REVIEW
	Week 11	• Discussion of peer review & revision plans • Revision plan DUE • Integrating citations and references/attributions into public documents • Revising & Editing • Writing workshop: Working on finalizing Project 3 for next week
	Week 12	• GALLERY PRESENTATIONS! Bring your multimodal projects to display and discuss • Gallery walk, comments and feedback, discussion • Revision plan for final version DUE • Final version of Project 3 DUE + Postwrite
UNIT 4 – Final Learning Reflection	Week 13	• Introducing the Final Learning Reflection • Semester review activity • Mapping your semester to the learning objectives
	Week 14	• Discussion of peer review and the project • Writing workshop: Drafting the FLR
	Week 15	• Writing workshop: Final Learning Reflection • Any revised projects can be resubmitted by last day of class • Final Learning Reflection DUE during exam period