

American Language Writing Sequence

ENGL 1A or ENGL 1A(M):
Freshman Composition (4 units)

Course Description:

Develops expository and argumentative essay and research paper skills. Emphasizes critical reading of academic material.

Lecture Topical Outline:

1. Drawing inferences from close reading and critical analysis of texts to facilitate text-based writing
2. Thesis development
3. Strategies for paragraph development, including the use of integrating evidence into body paragraphs, the strategies of development, and the use of sentence structures to develop the relationship among ideas
4. Organization
5. Research process including source evaluation
6. Current Modern Language Association (MLA) format
7. Strategies for revision
8. Final exam

Course Measurable Objectives:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the interpretation of texts in both discussion and writing.
2. Draw inferred arguments from primarily written texts with the option of some non-written texts.
3. Formulate effective thesis statements that focus the essay's argument and advance a clear assertion about the subject.
4. Develop arguments in response to prompts, using close reading and critical analyses of texts as well as relevant factual support.
5. Organize essays in an effective, systematic manner appropriate to the material.
6. Employ direct quotation, paraphrase and summary for textual support.
7. Combine strategies of development as a means for construction and supporting arguments.
8. Research topics as a means of writing arguments that engage in a dialogue with the alternative and complementary points of view.
9. Gather and evaluate the reliability of information from a variety of print and electronic sources.
10. Apply current MLA format for citing and documenting sources.
11. Produce expository and argumentative essays based on analysis of assigned texts and responses to ideas in texts.
12. Employ a variety of sentence types in composition.

Course Methods of Evaluation:

1. In a series of 4-6 essays using textual evidence, write a minimum of 6,000 words, excluding revisions
2. Library research paper of 7-10 pages documented according to MLA style or two library research papers of 5 pages documented according to MLA style
3. Essay examinations based on analysis of assigned texts and response to ideas in the texts

Sample Assignments:

1. Write a 3 to 5-page essay that explains a controversial issue. Do not try to persuade your readers to agree with your point of view about the issue. Instead, explicate the components of the controversy, using textual evidence to support your explanation.
2. In a 10 to 12-page paper, (1) choose a specific crime to research in order to understand the effects and implications of the crime in the “real world,” and (2) research and analyze a work of art (visual, textual, audio) that incorporates your chosen crime in order to explain how the artist is using it thematically, symbolically, metaphorically to shape the argument.