

# Is Intro to Reading & Writing 1 (WRD-090) right for you?

1. Can you read and understand shorter pieces of writing in English, like magazine and news articles and textbook chapters?

2. Are you able to write paragraphs without many distracting errors?

If you answer YES to these questions then WRD-090 may be right for you.

## Students in WRD-090:

- Read book chapters, magazine articles, and other shorter texts.
- Build reading confidence; use strategies like rereading and marking the text for better understanding.
- Brainstorm ideas for writing.
- Create and polish one-to-two page pieces of writing, supporting ideas with examples and detail.
- Learn about the library.

## Beginning of Term WRD-090 Sample Assignment

**To prepare:** Read the essays “Fish Cheeks” and “Salvation” (approx. 2 pages each), and then follow the instructions below.

### Assignment Details:

This week, you are reading two essays. One essay describes how a childhood event changed the author’s life in a surprising way, and the other talks about how the author’s mother helped her learn an important lesson. In this writing assignment, you will reflect on how an experience or person changed you and how the ideas from the essays relate to your own life.

After you've completed the readings, write a 2-3 paragraph response that answers the following questions:

- What is one event or person who changed your life in a significant way?
- Describe yourself before that change. Use detail and examples to show how you were before.
- Describe the event or person— what interesting things or feelings happened before and during the event? If you are writing about a person, how did you meet them, what were they like, and how did you feel about them at first?
- Describe yourself after the event or person. Use some details and examples to show how this changed you and made you the person you are. How do you feel about these changes?
- Pick one or two sentences from a reading this week that you can relate to. Quote that sentence and then explain why you relate to it (hint: maybe you had an experience similar to what is mentioned in the essay). You can include more than one quotation from the readings if you want to, but at least one quote is required.
- What have you learned about yourself from completing this writing assignment?

Your response should be written in about 2-3 paragraphs of complete sentences. Take time to edit your response to the best of your ability.

Updated as of 10.2022

## WRITING PATHWAY

- ☑ - Meets writing requirements for many career tech programs and certificates
- ☑ - Meets writing requirements for many transfer degrees and certificates



# Is Intro to Reading & Writing 2 (WRD-098) right for you?

## Beginning of Term WRD-098 Sample Assignment

1. Are you able to write one-page essays?
2. Can you edit your writing to eliminate most errors?

If your answer is YES, WRD-098 may be right for you.

### Students in WRD-098:

- Practice strategies to understand longer, challenging reading.
- Write 2-3 page, focused and organized academic essays without many distracting errors.
- Learn and apply strategies to begin, revise, and polish college writing assignments.
- Learn to quote, summarize, and paraphrase from sources.
- Use the library to do basic research.

**To prepare:** Read “The Importance of Writing Badly” and “What Writing Is” (approx. 4-5 pages each), and follow the instructions below.

### Essay 1 Assignment Details:

For this assignment your job is to write an essay responding to either “The Importance of Writing Badly” or “What Writing Is.” Your essay should be about **2 pages** long, typed, plus the additional paragraphs of reflection at the end.

To begin your essay, summarize either “The Importance of Writing Badly” or “What Writing Is” in your own words (explain the author’s main ideas). This should be approximately one paragraph.

After your summary, choose 2-3 quotations to quote from the reading and explain how they relate to something you have personally experienced, witnessed, or struggled with. In addition, consider if there were parts of the reading that you thought were wrong or frustrating. If so, find some specific quotations that you disagreed with (and quote them) and explain in detail why you think the author is wrong. What good reasons do you have for relating to and/or disagreeing with the article? Explain them as fully as possible (in about 2 pages of strong paragraphs). If you like, you can write this in a letter form to the author, explaining why/how you connected with this reading and, if applicable, what you disagree with.

After your essay, please include a reflection (**2-3 paragraphs**) that answers at least three of the following questions:

- Did writing this essay turn out to be easy or challenging? Why?
- How did this assignment give you a new perspective on the reading?
- How did this assignment show your strengths or weaknesses as a writer?
- What part of the assignment are you most proud of and why?
- What have you learned about your own personal writing process by completing this assignment?

Updated as of 10.2022

## WRITING PATHWAY

- ✓ Meets writing requirements for many career tech programs and certificates
- ✓ Meets writing requirements for many transfer degrees and certificates



# Is English Composition (WR 121) right for you?

## Are you ready for WR 121?

1. Are you able to write focused, organized 2-3 page essays and edit them so they are nearly free of errors?
2. Are you able to read and analyze college-level texts?
3. After reviewing the sample assignment on this page, are you comfortable completing a writing assignment like this?

If your answers are YES, WR 121 may be right for you.

## Students in WR 121:

Use a writing process that involves pre-writing, drafting, peer review, revision, and editing.

Write thesis-driven academic essays of 3-6 pages, analyzing complex topics and using relevant sources.

Learn to locate, evaluate, and properly reference and cite scholarly sources.

Practice and apply correct MLA formatting and citation.

## Beginning WR 121 Sample Assignment

**Reading Assignment:** Carefully read and analyze the college-level texts assigned for this week (10-12 pages each) and follow the writing assignment instructions below.

**Writing assignment:** For this assignment you will write a 3-4 page essay focusing on one of the key themes from either the speech "This is Water" by David Foster Wallace or the personal essay "Us and Them" by David Sedaris. A rough draft is due in one week. The final, fully edited, draft is due one week later.

**Description:** In class, we generated a list of major themes and key ideas from the texts "This is Water," and "Us and Them." You will choose one of these themes to focus on as the topic of your own essay. Your essay should present your perspective on the topic/theme that you chose (from the lists generated in class or from your own annotations / notes).

In your essay, you should use personal examples from your own experience to help explain or support your main point about the theme. In your essay, you must also use quotations from the text that you chose to respond to. The goal is to combine your own ideas and experiences with the ideas from the text you chose. When using quotations, introduce each quotation with a signal phrase:

Some examples of signal phrases:

- Doctor Smith says, . . .
- According to the book *Human Psychology*, . . .
- Linda Johnson explains . . .
- In the essay "A Modest Proposal," Jonathan Swift claims . . .

These are *signal phrases* because they tell the reader that the following information is quoted from a source.

### Submitting your essay:

- Your essay should be between 3-4 pages, double-spaced
- Follow MLA formatting guidelines (size 12 Times New Roman Font, double-spaced, etc.)
- Save your essay as a PDF file and upload it to Moodle before class on Wednesday
- Print two copies of your essay and bring these copies to class to share in small groups.

Updated as of 10.2022

**WRITING PATHWAY**

• Most writing centers for many years and courses are available  
• Many writing centers for many universities and colleges



# Is Occupational Writing (WR 101) right for you?

1. *Does your college program accept WR-101? (Not sure? Please ask an advisor.)*

2. *Are you able to write focused, organized 2-3 page pieces of writing and edit them so they are nearly free of errors?*

*If the answer is YES, WR-101 may be right for you.*

## **Students in WR 101:**

- Use a writing process that involves:
  - pre-writing
  - drafting
  - peer review
  - revision
  - editing
- Create common types of occupational writing, such as:
  - instructions
  - definitions
  - reports
  - mechanism descriptions
- Learn to locate, evaluate, and properly use credible sources.
- Practice and apply business formatting as well as MLA formatting and citation.

## **WR 101 Sample Writing Assignment**

### **Instructional Document Assignment Specifications:**

**Format:** Typed in MLA format, double-spaced. Page one must include, under the heading, specific answers to these questions:

- Audience: Who would be reading this?
- Purpose: Why do you want them to read it?

**Length:** 1.5 - 3 pages

**Instructions:** Choose a process that you know how to complete—perhaps something from your current job or related to one of your hobbies. Pick a process that is not too complicated, but that is unique enough that many people would not know how to do it (so, for example, don't choose something like "how to change a light bulb" because almost everyone already knows how to do this. But you might explain how to repair drywall, or how to tie-dye a t-shirt, or how to safely cut down old-growth trees, or how to create a budget using an Excel spreadsheet). Create a clear, concise, and easy-to-follow set of instructions or directions that describe how this process should be completed. Write your document for a lay audience, remembering to define any terms that your audience may find unfamiliar.

When creating instructional documents, the first thing you have to consider is how your document will be used. Will your readers be attempting to perform this procedure (as in a set of "how to" instructions) or will they be learning how a specific process occurs (such as how a plant grows or how a photocopier makes copies)? Will your document be read by one person? Or will many different people need to use this document? Will one person complete each step in these instructions? Or will it be necessary for different people to perform certain steps? The answers to these questions will determine the style and approach you use for your topic. You may use headings to separate your paragraphs if you wish.

### **When I grade this assignment, I will consider the following criteria:**

**Overall quality:** do your instructions accurately, clearly, thoroughly, yet concisely describe how to complete a process that many people do not know how to complete? \_\_\_/3

**Point of View:** is your point of view consistent (either third-person or in the imperative mood)? \_\_\_/2

**Verb Tenses:** are your tenses consistent and appropriate? (Most instructions are written in present tense.) \_\_\_/2

**Paragraph Structure:** do you write in complete, correct sentences and complete, focused paragraphs, including specific details about how each step is performed? Simply listing the steps is not sufficient. You may use headings to separate your paragraphs if you wish. \_\_\_/3

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✗ - Meets writing requirements for many transfer degrees and certificates

