

## LL 150 Academic Writing for Adults Course Syllabus

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**Location:** Naperville Campus

### Course Description

In this course, SNL students focus on writing to competence. Students develop and practice writing skills associated with effective performance in SNL courses and SNL assignments. Students review and apply the essentials of good writing by identifying and building on their particular strengths and improving their work in problem areas. In addition to receiving individual feedback and guidance from the instructor on grammar, development and use of outlines, and using the ideas of sources to formulate arguments, students learn to give feedback on writing to one another. Specifically, students will produce two written projects: a short essay, and a 5-page research paper. Classes will cover the following topics: idea generation, using research materials, developing outlines, building arguments, citing source material, and producing bibliographies. Students will also do extensive work in editing and rewriting to meet course goals.

### Competencies

L4 Competence: Can use writing for college-level learning, thinking and communicating.

Criteria:

1. Understands there are many different types of writing and is able to adjust to conventions of a variety of genres, audiences and purposes with a particular focus on the conventions of academic writing, including formatting, standards of evidence, appropriate tone and style, and use of sources.
2. Can write to explain, summarize, synthesize, reflect, argue, persuade, analyze, link experience and concepts, and demonstrate competence.
3. Has control over grammar, syntax, and punctuation and can manipulate them to suit a particular rhetorical situation.
4. Understands writing as an iterative process and can apply a repertoire of strategies for generating, organizing, drafting, revising, editing, and proof-reading papers that includes assessing and revising one's own writing as well as eliciting and using feedback from others.
5. Has a plan for continuous, ongoing improvement of writing that includes strategies for addressing problems, leveraging strengths, and mastering the writing genres related to one's focus area.

Students demonstrate this competence through the Proficiency Exam or specific SNL courses. Students will continue to develop their writing skills throughout the program. SNL will not accept transfer courses for this competence.

**Core Competence: *LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE***

**Criteria**

Can assess and revise one's own writing

**Specifications**

- \* Recognizes areas for improving own writing
- \* Submits revised versions of assignments.

Can elicit and use feedback from others to improve one's writing

- \* Asks for feedback.
- \* Incorporates the ideas of others in revising work

**Core Competence: *COMMUNICATION***

Can apply a process model of expository writing at college level

- \*Brainstorms ideas
- \* Collects data
- \* Outlines papers
- \* Revises papers at global and paragraph levels
- \* Edits final drafts at sentence level

Can demonstrate college level competence in narrative and expository writing

- \* Writing contains few if any grammar spelling, punctuation, and organization errors and errors do not block comprehension
  - sentence structure
  - sentence boundaries
  - spelling

- \* Writing contains organizational devices at the global level
- \* Paragraphs are focused around topic sentences and/or main ideas

Can incorporate and cite ideas using appropriate

- \* Includes ideas from outside citation rules sources
- \* Integrates ideas from outside sources
- \* Cites outside sources according to academic conventions

**Core Competence: *DECISION MAKING***

Can select appropriate themes and expressions that demonstrate concepts and ideas to others

- \* Chooses devices such as analogies, metaphors, and/or illustrations and examples to communicate abstract ideas

**Resources for Writing Support**

In addition to the Writing and Critical Thinking courses, there are ways to strengthen and support your writing progress. None of these is meant as a substitute for SNL Writing or Critical Thinking courses, but can augment your ongoing work in writing.

**Citation Handout: Using Sources and Writing Research Papers at the School for New Learning:**

<http://www.snل.depaul.edu/current/resources.asp>

**DePaul's Writing Center** offers individual tutorial sessions and writing support. This service is located at the Loop and Lincoln Park campuses and is free to DePaul students. Students can email papers to the Writing Center and a tutor will provide feedback. Students may also set up a schedule of regular meetings with the same tutor. Call Loop (312 362 6726) or Lincoln Park (312 325-7000 ex, 1805) or check the Center website at: <http://condor.depaul.edu/~writing/>.

The **Writing Resources** website has links to several great helps, including online consultations, grammar handouts, style manuals and guides, a site on using and documenting sources, online writing exercises, scientific and technical writing sources, and online libraries.

<http://condor.depaul.edu/~writing/resources.html>

**The Write Course** is a PBS correspondence course offered on Channel 20. Contact Chicago City Colleges for schedule information.

### **Learning Experience**

In this course the following teaching and learning techniques are used: lecture, at home and in class assignments, critical reading, and learning from others through peer editing. Students should expect to write and to rewrite extensively in this course. Students who do not have access to a word processing system should avail themselves of the University's computer labs for this purpose. Should students need assistance with word processing, they should inform the Faculty, and consult University's IT department at: [studenttechtraining@depaul.edu](mailto:studenttechtraining@depaul.edu). Attendance is required in this and all SNL courses. See policy statement below. Assessment in this course is based on participation in class activities and discussions on completion of course requirements.

### **Required Texts and Course Materials**

Hacker, Diane. A Writer's Reference, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Bedford/St.Martins

Graff, Gerald & Birkenstein, Cathy. They Say I Say, W. W. Norton and Company

### **Evidence the Students will Submit**

1. In-class essays
2. Analytic Paper
3. Descriptive Narrative Essay
4. Topic Essay (2-3 pages)
5. Short Research paper (5 pages)
6. Participation in all class activities

In each of these assignments, students will demonstrate their ability to use Standard English grammar and spelling. Furthermore, students will be expected to organize their work according to topic and assignment demands. There are no quizzes or examinations in this course. All SNL faculty are bound by the University's guidelines on academic integrity found in the Student Handbook. See the Citation Handout for more information on this topic. Adult learners can and should help design the learning experiences and demonstration of competence. You are encouraged to make suggestions on course process.

### **Criteria for Assessment**

Academic Writing for Adults is a Pass/Fail course. However, you have the option of taking the course for a letter grade. If you wish to take the course for a letter grade, you must inform your instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class. Once you commit to taking the course for a letter grade, you cannot switch back to Pass/Fail. Some students think they need to take the class for a letter grade for employer reimbursement purposes. In most cases, this is not true. SNL offers students this letter for tuition reimbursement of pass/fail courses:

[http://www.snل.depaul.edu/contents/current/forms/pass\\_explanatory\\_letter.pdf](http://www.snل.depaul.edu/contents/current/forms/pass_explanatory_letter.pdf) To be sure, check with their Human Resources department.

In order to successfully complete pass this course, students must:

1. attend class and participate in class activities;

2. submit class assignments on time;
3. meet the standards of the L4 competence as listed above.

While early drafts are opportunities to grope around and experiment and will not be as polished or well developed as final drafts, they should represent your best effort to write the paper and should not be stream of consciousness, a collection of notes or a half done essay. Every draft should be spell checked before you turn it in. Final drafts will be evaluated using the Grading Rubric for Papers at the School for New Learning (<http://snl.depaul.edu/writing/Rubric.html>).

### **Class Schedule**

This schedule lists writing assignments and reading assignments from the course text. Other assignments will be distributed in class.

#### Session 1

Syllabus review  
Introduction to writing at SNL  
In class personal narrative  
Narrowing the topic (Exploding the moment)  
Read for next session: *Hacker*

#### Session 2

The Writing Process  
Importance of Peer Editing Lesson  
Description lesson  
Feedback on personal narrative  
Beginning the rough draft of personal narrative  
Read for next session: *Hacker*

#### Session 3

Lesson- Types of Writing - Parts of Paper  
Final copy of Narrative due  
*Lesson- analytical piece( response to Literature)*  
Read for next session ;*Hacker*

#### Session 4

Analytical rough draft is due  
Discussion of intro and paragraphs( persuasive and expository essays)  
Begin expository piece (rough draft)  
Read for next session: Citation Handout *Using Sources and Writing Research Papers at the School for New Learning*

#### Session 5

Peer feedback on Short Essay (Expository Piece)  
Review intro's and paragraphs (class assignment)  
Introduction to citation  
Read for next session: *Hacker*

#### Session 6

Final copy of short essay due

Developing the outline  
Discuss and assign outline for Research Paper  
Read for next session: *Hacker*

Session 7

Peer editing outlines for research paper  
Lesson on Conclusions and the bibliography  
Begin rough drafts of research paper  
Read for next session: *Hacker*

Session 8

Plagiarism lesson  
Peer editing research paper  
Conferences  
Work on rough draft of research paper  
Work on all make-up work

Session 9

Peer editing research paper  
The Writing Plan  
In class essay



Session 10

Final draft due (research paper)  
Finalize in class essay in computer lab.

**1. SNL Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory in SNL courses. Students and faculty are expected to arrive on time, and to participate in every scheduled class session. Specific course policies can be listed in the course syllabus, and acceptance of the syllabus indicates agreement to policies outlined in that document. Missing class makes assessment a difficult process, and all students who miss any class work are subject to grade reduction by the faculty. Students who miss more than 10% of any given course are subject to failure.

**2. SNL Incomplete Policy**

The student who wishes to receive the grade of IN must formally request in writing that the instructor issue this grade. This request must be made before the end of the quarter in which the student is enrolled in a course. Deadline for assignments are established and adhered to by the Faculty.