

First-Year Writing (2008)

First-Year Writing (English 101). Although conventions of academic discourse vary across disciplines, this course introduces students to some of the shared expectations of academic writing at Wheaton, while helping them to develop their own understanding of writing processes. More specifically, students in First-Year Writing begin to

- * Learn to use writing for purposes in addition to the demonstration of knowledge. These purposes include using writing as a means of discovery, questioning and learning.

- * Know how to ask effective and productive questions of themselves and others to enable them to begin to address reading and writing assignments

- * Develop their abilities to self reflect about their writing and writing processes

- * Cultivate a shared working vocabulary with which to discuss writing

- * Develop an understanding of writing as essential to both their academic work and their future careers

- * Increase their rhetorical knowledge considering audience needs and expectations

- * Brainstorm, organize, develop and refine thesis statements

- * Support thesis statements; evaluate evidence in support of thesis statements

- * Practice selecting and documenting secondary sources in support of an argument

- * Learn about resources to support writing

- * Know what next steps are appropriate to their development as writers, including an understanding of the rationale for Wheaton's discipline-situated program.

All sections of First-Year Writing include individual conferences with the instructor about the student's writing, practice in revision and experience reading other students' writing (either through workshop or various forms of peer review).