COURSE SYLLABUS
English Composition I

Instructors:

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Hello, and welcome!

Have you ever thought, "I'm not a good writer"? That is a phrase we hear a lot. However, no matter what your writing ability is right now, you CAN become a good writer. Writing, much like anything that requires practice, is a process. We are here to help you work on that process.

We invite you to take a minute to learn about the course by reviewing the information below. This way, you will be better able to understand the expectations of the course as a whole. Then you can determine how to manage your time and efforts as you navigate through it.

Rest assured:

You are in the right place. You belong here. You can do this!

WGU Academy

Course Description and Competencies

This course will help you develop writing skills that will benefit you in all aspects of your life. You will be introduced to four distinct writing approaches: **descriptive, narrative, critical, and argumentative.**

You will write and revise about 10 pages as a requirement for the course. You will also review the work of experts and peers. The course highlights both overall writing and sentence-level revision. You will be encouraged to improve each piece of writing. This process will help develop your overall writing skills. You will also learn to apply American Psychological Association (APA-Version 7) formatting standards.

4 writing approaches

1. **descriptive**	3. **critical**
2. **narrative**	4. **argumentative**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply grammatical rules, sentence structure, and writing conventions to all writing.
2. Incorporate necessary writing elements, such as thesis statements, paragraphs, and conclusions.
3. Integrate credible and relevant sources into writing, using APA format.
4. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and avoid plagiarism.
5. Compose descriptive writing aligned with rubric standards.
6. Compose narrative writing aligned with rubric standards.
7. Compose critical, interpretive writing aligned with rubric standards.
8. Compose argumentative writing aligned with rubric standards.

4 papers

APA style

3 course credits

Course Description and Competencies

Course Outline

Your English Way Finder

At the start of the course, you will complete this assessment. It will illustrate your current knowledge of concepts related to this course. Your results will help WGU Academy create a tailored plan for you.

Module:	Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:
Descriptive Writing: Describing Through Detail	A. Use structural and grammatical elements specific to descriptive writing B. Create a description using figurative language, sensory detail, and imagery C. Reflect on your progress as a writer D. Use accurate APA formatting standards
Narrative Writing: Learning Through Storytelling	A. Use structural and grammatical elements specific to narrative writing B. Compose a narrative that conveys an appropriate theme C. Tell a story that captures a personal experience D. Incorporate dialogue and description in storytelling
Critical Writing: Reading with Purpose	A. Use structural and grammatical elements specific to critical writing B. Do a close reading of a story, using a model to explore and question ideas C. Demonstrate critical thinking by conveying story concepts D. Include and respond to specific textual examples E. Include APA-style in-text citations and reference information
Argumentative Writing: Writing to Persuade	A. Use structural and grammatical elements specific to argumentative writing B. Create a supported argument using trustworthy sources C. Build a workable thesis statement reflected in all paragraphs D. Review and consider opposing ideas E. Build cohesive and coherent arguments within each paragraph

Check Your Progress

At the end of the course, you will complete a final assessment. It will illustrate your progress in the course. It consists of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and open-text response questions.

WGU Academy's Learning Library

The course modules offer you guidance in the unique styles of writing. However, you may wish to explore more subjects related to this course. Check out this collection of Open Educational Resources (OERs). **We hope you find this information helpful!**

About Writing: A Guide

This guide offers you information about types of writing, grammar, sentence structure, and other key details. You can also learn about MLA, APA, and CMS citations. The book may seem huge! Check the Table of Contents to find the sections you are interested in.

Written by Robin Jeffrey and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted. Revised summer 2016.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Make sure your writing is your own! This guide can help you understand what plagiarism is and how you can prevent it in your work.

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Capitalization

If you are not sure about capitalization, this guide can give you the basics.

From The MLCKRB (Master List Code Key and Rule Book): An English Grammar & Style Handbook by Jared Aragona, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted. Updated 2021.

Figurative Language

In this segment, you can learn about all kinds of figurative language. These include metaphors, hyperbole, and more!

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Grammar Essentials

Not sure where to put your commas? This guide can help with that issue and much more! Learn about run-on sentences, subject/verb agreement, parts of speech, and other essentials.

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Paragraphing

You write papers as a group of paragraphs. Paragraphs are groups of related sentences. This site will help you learn how to construct clear and organized paragraphs.

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Prewriting Strategies

On this site, you can learn about strategies to help you get your creativity flowing. These include brainstorming, mapping, and freewriting.

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Revising and Editing

Once you have written a draft, you will need to spend time improving your work. This site offers guidance for the revision process.

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Technology Requirements

We want to be sure you have the tools to succeed! Review the Computer System and Technology Requirements to learn about the technology you'll need. If you have questions about your setup, contact support@academy.wgu.edu.

Key Contacts

Your Fellow Learners

Check out the English Lobby in this course site. In this online community, you can ask questions and explore ideas. You can connect with your fellow learners. You will also find helpful videos and exercises. When you use this site, you will realize that other learners may have the same questions you have. You can all benefit from learning together!

Your Instructors

You can touch base and schedule time with your Course Instructor (CI). Your CI is here to help you every step of the way.

Tutor.com

If you need academic support, don't hesitate to contact Tutor.com. There, you have access to thousands of tutors. And they are available 24/7 from any internet-ready device. You can also benefit from instructional videos, study tools, and other assistance.

Technical Support

If you encounter technical issues, be sure to contact the Help Desk. Just submit a Support Request for assistance.

Program Support

Do you have questions about your account? Our Academy Support Team has answers. They can help with billing, switching courses, and other requests. You can contact them at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Accommodations

WGU Academy provides compliant and accessible learning experiences. If you require accommodation, please contact us at the start of the course. You can email StudentAffairs@academy.wgu.edu or call (385) 262-4580. We are committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to WGU Academy's services and materials. We strive to use best practices for accessibility. Our goal is to conform to existing U.S. laws. These include the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Our learning management system (LMS) platform is Open edX. Open edX's commitment to accessible content is published on their Website Accessibility Policy. For more about our Student Policies and Accessibility, please visit WGU Academy Student Policies.