English 109
Introduction to Essay Writing
Section 1
Fall 1992

Classes: Monday evenings 7-10 -- SJC 209

Instructor: Karen Pancer       Office: HH228C       Extension: 3886

Office Hours: Wednesday morning 9:30-10:30 or by appointment
I will also be available in SJC 209 before and after class.

This course will instruct you in effective strategies for writing university essays, based on a
model which sees writing as a recursive process of inventing, drafting, and revising. To
promote writing and the sharing of writing, you'll write often, both in class and outside of
class. In peer workshops you'll have a chance to see how other students handle writing
assignments and a chance to practise revising and editing skills by helping others revise their
work.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have learned
1. how to choose a topic and discover what to say about it
2. how to revise according to your purpose and your audience
3. how to evaluate constructively the writing of your peers
4. how to take full advantage of the resources in the Dana Porter library.

Required texts: Lunsford, Connors and Segal, The St. Martin's Handbook for Canadians and
Hookey and Pilz, Contest Essays by Canadian Students

Required materials: A three-ring binder and paper for your journal and writing log, three
pocket folders, and paper clamps, plus a notebook for class work.

Contract: Since this is a workshop course, student participation and commitment are
essential. This syllabus is our contract: I agree to tailor the course to suit the group's needs,
and you agree to attend every class fully prepared. If you feel you cannot approach this
course with such professionalism please withdraw.

Policy on attendance and late papers: Attendance is mandatory. Draft copies must be ready
on peer workshop days, and final essays must be submitted on the due date. Marks will be
deducted for every absence and late submission of drafts. Final essays handed in after the
due date will automatically receive an F.

***Please type final drafts***
Course Schedule

September 14  Introduction to Writing

September 21  Invention Techniques
               Read: SM Chapters 1, 2
               CE Part 1 (all), Part 3 (Introduction) and "Maskerade", "Joyful
               William", "How to Write a Test", and "A Career Choice"
               Receive Assignment 1

September 28  Peer Workshop on Essay 1
               (bring your draft and 2 copies)
               Revising and Editing
               Read: SM Chapters 3, 28, 29
               CE "My Private Collection of Memories", "Shopping Then and
               Now", "Violence in the Media", "Fall from University Grace",
               and "The Fighter in Us All" Journal/log collection

October 5     Essay 1 due -- Receive Assignment 2
               Argument
               Read: SM Chapter 4
               CE Part 4 (Introduction), "A Public Smoking Ban", "Mandatory
               Drug Testing in Canadian Sport", "Illiterate Like Me",
               "Publicizing the Names of the Accused: An Unfair Invasion of
               Privacy" and "The Miracle of Free Trade"

October 12    Thanksgiving Day Holiday--University Closed
               Pick up Essay 1 -- October 13-16
               (Location: TBA)

October 19    Conference Day -- Details later.
               Hand in a draft of Essay 2 by October 16 and I will comment on it during the
               conference.

October 26    Peer Workshop on Essay 2
               (bring your draft and 2 copies)
               Crafting Paragraphs
               Read SM 5

November 2    Essay 2 due -- Receive Assignment 3
               Library Tour with Erin Murphy (7:30 - 9:00)
               Read: SM Chapters 8, 9

November 9    Incorporating Research in Your Essays
               Read SM 10, 11, 12
November 16  Words, Words, Words: Diction and Vocabulary
Read: SM Chapters 30, 31, 24

November 23  Peer Workshop on Essay 3
(bring your draft and 2 copies)
Revising at the sentence level
Read: SM Chapters 25, 26, 27
Journal/log collection

November 30  Second Peer Workshop on Essay 3
Troubleshooting
Writing for Different Disciplines
Essay Exams
Read: SM Chapters 6, 7

December 7 NO CLASS -- Essay 3 due by 7:00 p.m.

Note: SM Parts IV, V, VIII, and IX cover matters of grammar, punctuation, usage, and conventions. Expect additional readings and exercises from these sections as part of your writing log assignments. Of course, you can refer to these sections yourself in answer to editing problems that might arise during your drafting stages.

Marks Breakdown:

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<td>Essay 2</td>
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<td>Essay 3</td>
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<td>Journals and writing logs (3x5%)</td>
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Notes on Journals and Writing Logs

Journals:

For our purposes, a journal is a collection of informal writing (at least one double-spaced page written on both sides) that you will do at least five times per week. One purpose of the journal is to get you to write so often that it becomes second nature to you. Writing a journal can also help you reflect on what's happening in your life, evaluate the changes this course is bringing to the way you approach writing, record your responses to the readings, and so on. A journal is not just a blow by blow description of "What I Did Today." Try instead to use your journal to explore your reactions to a recent experience, capture a feeling into words, or speculate about the imaginary.

Your journal entries should not be in a "perfect" state when you hand them in to me. Your journal mark depends more on how copiously and how often you write, and how much you use your journal to explore issues important to you. One word of caution: since I will be reading these, please include only information that you don't mind sharing with me. But by all means keep a separate private journal if the mood strikes.

(Total marks for journals: 10%)

Writing Logs:

A writing log is a collection of ten short writing-related assignments that you will do at home. For example, I may ask you to write an introductory paragraph following a model in CE or assign an exercise on commas. Log assignments will depend on the needs of the class and will be announced weekly.

(Total marks for writing log: 5%)

Please date and number each journal and log entry.