English 109 -- Winter 1997
Introduction to Academic Writing

Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 pm
Instructor: Rachel Nash

How to Get In Touch With Me:
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Course Description

Academic writing is a learned skill. As apprentices in academe, we will study what exactly "academic writing" is: its characteristic patterns and habits. We will then practice these patterns and habits, paying attention to the social function of these practices as we acquire them.

This is a serious course, requiring from all students committed participation in the form of regular attendance, regular writing, and involvement in classroom activities.

Required Texts

Janet Giltrow, Academic Writing (2nd Edition)
Janet Giltrow, Academic Reading

Optional Texts

Diana Hacker, A Canadian Writer's Reference (2nd Edition). This is a very good resource to have on hand for academic writing. If you don't already own a handbook of some sort, consider buying this one.

Course Assignments

Summary - 15%  
Critical Summary - 15%  
Comparison and Definition - 15%  
Portfolio/Participation - 30%  
Final Essay - 25%  

Due January 28.  
Due February 11.  
Due March 18.  
Due April 1.  
Due date to be announced.

Class Policies

Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day. If you anticipate that you will not be able to hand in an assignment on time, please contact me in advance to make an alternative arrangement.
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PLEASE NOTE: In all parts of the university, plagiarism is an academic offence, punishable by disciplinary action. Plagiarism is "the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own" (UW Policy #71).

Course Schedule

Assignments are to be completed for the following week, unless otherwise noted.

Week One (January 7): Introduction, Expectations, and Trajectory Assignment (to be done for Week Two, and explained in first class): Academic Writing (AW) pp. 27-45. Complete the two-sentence summary on p. 43.

Week Two (January 14): Summary Assignment: AW pp. 54-59 and Academic Reading (AR) pp. 302-323 OR pp. 49-85 (you will be assigned ONE of these two articles during class). Draft summary due Week Three.


Week Four (January 28): Critical Summary Assignment: AW pp. 101-109. Read whichever assigned article from AR which you have not yet read. Critical summary draft due by Week Six.


READING WEEK (February 18): No class!

Week Seven (February 25): Portrait of a Reader Assignment: AR pp. 346-381.

Week Eight (March 4): Definition and Comparison Assignment: prepare research question. Comparison-summary draft due. (From this point on, reading assignments will be lighter in
order to allow extra time for research on your final project.)

Week Nine (March 11): Definition and Comparison
Assignment: AW pp. 212-234.

Week 10 (March 18): Academic Styles
Assignment: AW pp. 234-245. Bring an essay that you have had recently marked (for better or worse) in another class.

Week Eleven (March 25): Academic Styles
Assignment: AW pp. 245-259.

Week Twelve (April 1): Academic Styles