

Composition Course Entry Level Skills

Composition

The student

1. describes personal experiences with a rudimentary degree of clarity and detail,
2. is able to write a narrative organized chronologically,
3. writes a response to a question or topic that is sustained for a few sentences only,
4. writes with enough coherence so that simple relationships between ideas are shown, perhaps primarily by conjunctions and common conjunctive adverbs,
5. provides, when given a category, a specific example in illustration,
6. writes with the level of clarity and sophistication of thought appropriate to an adult native speaker of English,
7. displays in writing a minimal grasp of the differences between writing and speaking.

Conventions

Entry Level English 009

Grammar:

The student

1. has a rudimentary sense of simple sentence completeness,
2. recognizes fundamental verb forms (past, present, future),
3. is aware of basic need for subject-verb agreement.

Syntax:

The student understands basic elements of word order in Standard Written English.

Sentence Skills:

The student

1. uses an excess of short, simple sentences,
2. has a limited grasp of sentence unity and sentence logic,
3. has limited control over sentence structure, often mixing or garbling it,
4. knows about terminal punctuation (periods, question marks, exclamation points),
5. omits necessary words only occasionally,
6. has a grasp of sentence variety and emphasis, although limited,
7. confuses wordiness with complexity,
8. may intuitively use single-word parallelism,
9. often switches verb tenses, person and number of pronouns, direct and indirect discourse, tone and style, and point of view; unaware of errors,
10. has difficulty establishing clear pronoun reference to antecedent.

Diction:

The student

1. uses minimal degree of spelling correctness for simple

Style

The student

1. writes sentences which frequently lack meaning, correctness, and clarity,
2. writes primarily ineffective simple and compound sentences,
3. writes in a way that demonstrates little or no knowledge of phrases and clauses as building blocks of sentences,
4. writes sentences which lack variety of construction,
5. often writes sentences with pitfalls such as fragments, comma splices, and faulty predication,
6. writes paragraphs consisting of groups of sentences with little or no sense of unity or coherence,
7. frequently writes in an informal speaking style.

Entry Level
English 009
Continued

- words; frequently confuses homophones,
2. uses vague, rather than precise, words,
3. uses correct word division (hyphenation) only rarely,
4. does not distinguish between formal and informal usage,
5. rarely uses a dictionary.

Mechanics:

The student

1. has a sketchy grasp of capitalization,
2. uses a few abbreviations and numbers correctly.