

Composition Course Entry Level Skills

Composition

The student

1. achieves a minimal degree of objectivity about his or her writing to facilitate improvement through instruction,
2. transforms individual experiences into coherent writing,
3. distinguishes different levels of generality and specificity,
4. utilizes some prewriting strategies (scratch outlines, brainstorming, listing, cluster diagrams),
5. selects a workable topic for a paragraph and stays on that topic,
6. composes a workable opening sentence, although it may be only an announcement of topic rather than a topic sentence,
7. is able to develop an idea into a paragraph through several basic methods such as narration, description, including description of a process,

Conventions

Entry Level English 010

Grammar:

The student

1. is aware of requirement for complete and correct sentences; tries to avoid fragments, comma splices, and run-ons,
2. recognizes fundamental verb forms as well as perfect tenses and has a sense of tense sequence,
3. follows rules of subject-verb agreement and pronoun-antecedent agreement most of the time

Syntax:

The student

1. uses required word order for Standard Written English most of the time,
2. spots some misplaced or dangling modifiers.

Sentence Skills:

The student

1. can produce some compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences,
2. has basic control of sentence unity and sentence logic,
3. is able to correct mixed sentence structure most of the time,
4. omits necessary words only rarely,
5. is able to vary sentences for emphasis occasionally,
6. understands some principles of concise expression,
7. recognizes single-word, phrase, and clause parallelism,
8. sometimes maintains consistency in using verb tenses; in person and number of pronouns; in distinguishing between direct and indirect discourse; in tone and style; and in point of view,
9. understands need for clear pronoun reference to antecedent.

Style

The student

1. can write sentences with meaning and clarity most of the time,
2. recognizes the need to edit and revise sentences and paragraphs,
3. can write sentences using phrases and clauses,
4. can write varied sentences with simple, compound, and complex sentence constructions with some degree of success,
5. can mostly avoid sentence writing pitfalls such as fragments, comma splices, and faulty predication,
6. understands the relationship of the sentence to its paragraph,
7. can distinguish between formal academic style and informal style with some success.

Composition

8. recognizes the need to edit and revise his or her own paragraphs for clarity, details, and unity.

Entry Level English 010 Continued

Conventions

Punctuation:

The student

1. uses commas correctly most of the time,
2. is aware of semi-colons and apostrophes.

Diction:

The student

1. is alert to some problems with homophones; sometimes misspells common words,
2. understands the need for precise words,
3. has an elementary grasp of the difference between formal and informal usage,
4. can use a dictionary for spelling, word division, and definition.

Mechanics:

The student

1. knows basic rules of capitalization,
2. can use some abbreviations and numbers correctly,
3. employs elementary requirements of manuscript form (e.g., margins, paragraph indentation).

Style