Strong Writing Skills are the Mark of an Educated and Competent Person

English Composition is one of the most important courses you will take in college. The skills and principles you learn will lay the foundation for impressions you will leave professionally and personally for the rest of your life.

The primary focus of writing is to help students build the skills necessary to write effectively. You will learn to master the skills necessary to write effectively. You will learn to master the strategies that are effective in clear expository writing.

Assignments are designed to be relevant to your present life and career goals. You will gain considerable practice writing both in-class and out-of class assignments working both individually and groups. Your active participation in in-class edits and collaborative assignments are essential.

The activities and readings used in the course will assist and reinforce your learning, enhance your academic performance, and enrich your social interactions. Take every opportunity to achieve while enjoying yourself.

“I admire anyone who has the guts to write anything at all.”
- E.B. White

COURSE OBJECTIVES HELP TO KEEP YOU FOCUSED ON YOUR GOAL

This course is designed to help you express your ideas clearly, logically, confidently, by improving your skills in the following areas.

1. Critical thinking, including in reading, audience analysis, selection of purpose and strategy, and collection of information.
3. Organization.
4. Developing ideas (constructing a thesis supporting the thesis developing paragraphs with specific and concrete details).
5. Diction and Style.
6. Reinforcement of syntax, grammar, mechanics.
7. Becoming an effective communicator of plain, clear English.
MAKING THE GRADE

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

Your final grade in Writing 121 is based on two parts. Seventy percent of the course grade is carried in your class work. Thirty percent of your final grade is based on a two-day English Department final exam given to all writing 121 students at LBCC.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

build the bulk of your grade and prepare you to do well on the final.

Each classroom essay (6) carries equal weight toward the classroom grade. To engage all writers with the reality of the writing process and to promote opportunities for improvement, writing emphasis will be placed on revision for all writers. All students will be given encouragement and suggestions to help improve their essays. Students may choose to seek additional assistance during office hours during in-class workshops, or at the writing desk, located in the Learning Center (LRC).

Grading Standards

In evaluation of student’s classroom writing, the following are used as criteria:

1. An identifiable thesis or central idea.
2. An identifiable general purpose.
3. Well-developed, logically organized paragraphs.
4. Well related to the intended reading audience.
5. Clear, correct, and appropriate diction.
6. Correctly constructed sentences, free of any serious syntax errors*
7. Observance of grammatical and punctuation conventions.

Late papers will lose points. No late essays will be accepted after week 7. In order to receive full credit on in-class writings, you must use full writing workshop class time.

Incomplete course grades will be awarded at my option when, for reasons such as hospitalization, you have not fulfilled the tasks listed by the final day of class. Eighty percent of the term’s work must be completed to qualify and a signed agreement must be filed with the department.

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Classroom Grade – 70% of course grade.

(1) Essay (6) – 70%
(2) Freewriting – 30%
(Reading responses, in-class freewrites, group responses)

Final Exam – 30% of course grade.

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“THE BIG ONES”

* Assignments must be free of the following deficiencies:

1) Sentence fragments.
2) Comma splices/Run-on sentences
3) Errors in punctuation
4) Errors in subject/verb agreement
5) Errors in pronoun/antecedent agreement
6) Misplaced or dangling modifiers
7) Significant errors in spelling