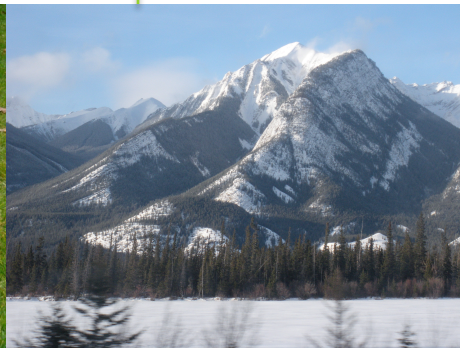


CHRTC 381

MISSION/VISION/MANIFESTO: STATEMENTS OF VALUE AND DIRECTION

R. Graves

Writing Across the Curriculum



ROGER GRAVES



Roger Graves

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum
Professor, EFS

May 4, 2010

- wac
- c4w
- writing initiatives
- webmail
- efs
- u of a

As Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, I'll be working with faculty and students across the university to improve student writing. I consult with instructors and departments, and I teach writing in a wide variety of courses when students in those courses are starting a writing assignment. I will also be working with students and faculty in the Department of English and Film Studies, my home department.

I am the author, co-author, or editor of six books and 29 articles, including *Writing Instruction in Canadian Universities*. My current research interests include the development of doctoral student writing, writing assignments across disciplinary fields, and rhetorical approaches to text encoding. Currently I serve as co-President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW), the

Recent presentations to classes

This page contains links to slides displayed at presentations I've given to classes.

Research and faculty presentations

Digital rhetoric



WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM



Writing Initiatives
University of Alberta

Writing Across the Curriculum

[Home](#) [Presentations](#) [Other Programs](#) [Resources by Subject](#) [Contact Us](#)

Today:

9/2/2009 10:31:23 AM

[C4W](#)

[WRS Courses](#)

[Roger Graves](#)

[Blog](#)

[Academic Honesty](#)

[Home](#) > [Home](#)

Would you like to improve the writing of your students? Improve their learning of your lecture material? Are you looking for new ways to engage your students in your course materials? If this interests you, contact [Roger Graves](#): or 492.2169

What can we do for individual instructors:

- meet to talk about ways to incorporate informal (short, impromptu) writing assignments into any class, small or large
- review via email any assignment you give students that has a writing component to help make it clearer for students and to help develop grading rubrics to improve the speed and accuracy of grading
- visit your class to help students get started on your writing assignments

What can we do for departments:

- hold workshops on creating good writing assignments
- host discussions of how to improve the writing of students in your programs
- conduct reviews of writing assignments in your departments courses to identify exactly what your students are being asked to write—and to ensure that they have access to resources on how to write (online and on-campus)

Upcoming Presentations and Workshops:

<http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/WAC/>

CENTRE FOR WRITERS



Writing Initiatives
University of Alberta



Centre for Writers

[Home](#) [Appointments](#) [Contact Us](#) [Location](#) [Coaches](#) [Resources](#) [FAQ](#) [WAC](#)

[Home](#) > Home

Welcome to the Centre for Writers

We offer **free** one-on-one writing coaching and support to all students, instructors and staff at the University of Alberta - in any faculty or at any level of study.

Our writing coaches are available to assist clients with higher order concerns in their writing, such as thesis formation, organization and idea development, as well as more specific details, like grammar and documentation style. Clients can bring in any writing project at any stage of development: essays, lab reports, creative pieces, scholarly articles, thesis drafts, application letters - and more. Our coaches will also help students read instructor comments on already-graded papers. ESL and EAL students are welcome!

[Request a class room visit by a tutor.](#)

Welcome back for the Fall 2009 term! Tutoring hours will begin on **Monday, September 14**. The online appointment-booking schedule will be available to clients as soon as possible prior to this date. We look forward to working with you!

9/2/2009 10:34:15 AM

Express News

Twitter Updates

The Centre for Writers will open for the fall term on Monday, September 14! 5 days ago

[follow me on Twitter](#)

GramWOW



<http://www.c4w.arts.ualberta.ca/>

THE WRITING PROCESS

Getting started

- ▶ Explore the assignment
- ▶ Make rough notes
- ▶ Pick a tentative topic


Getting feedback

- ▶ Make an appointment at the writing centre for later in the week
- ▶ Get feedback on your draft/revise


Revising

- ▶ Work on style and lower order concerns
 - ▶ Proofread, consult checklist for assignment
- 


THE ASSIGNMENT

- ▶ Develop a “Mission Statement for a Beginning Teacher in a Catholic School”
 - ▶ Your statement must include at least one reference from Scripture, a statement of mission (no more than four sentences), and a short (maximum three pages) reflection paper outlining how you would apply your mission statement in your practice as a beginning teacher.
 - ▶ **Note:** Catholic education understands that the Catholic worldview is explicitly present in every dimension of instruction and day-to-day life in a Catholic school.
- 


GENRE: MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ Five years from now we envision a strong department that serves the interests of students and faculty across the university while building a foundation of research activity in writing, rhetoric, and technical communication. At that point, we will have established advanced courses in technical communication for engineering, a graduate seminar in technical communication for graduate students in a variety of disciplines, and a research agenda that creates an inventory of writing done by students at all levels of the University. We will be well on our way to establishing credit courses in writing for Law, the Schulich School for Medicine and Dentistry, and Science.
- 


MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ The Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication program contributes to providing the best undergraduate student experience in a research-intensive university by teaching writing to students from all faculties and affiliated colleges at the University of Western Ontario. We provide campus-wide leadership for writing through certificate and diploma programs, course development, faculty workshops, web resources, affiliations with professional writer's organizations, a guest speaker series, and public presentations.
- 


SAMPLE MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ Writing Initiatives works to build a culture on our campuses that values and nurtures the role of writing in thinking, learning, and discovery in all disciplines and professions, as well as in knowledge production and dissemination. Writing Initiatives fosters communication and collaboration between the Centre for Writers, the Writing Across the Curriculum Program, and the Writing Studies Program and seeks to forge productive links with other programs supporting the writing of U of A students, staff, and faculty.
- 


SAMPLE MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ **Writing Across the Curriculum Mission Statement**
 - ▶ The Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program helps instructors integrate writing as discovery, as problem-solving, and as part of the process of creating new knowledge in all disciplines. By conducting research to identify best practices in teaching writing and writing-to-learn, the WAC program will support University of Alberta faculty and will play a leading role in Canada and internationally.
- 

WHAT DO WE WANT TO BECOME?


- ▶ **Vision**
 - ▶ We would like to be known as the best online resource for writing help in Alberta, in Canada, and, eventually, as one of the best in the world. We want students, both on campus and studying at a distance, to access our knowledge to improve their ability to write well.
- 

MISSION/ACTIVITIES:


- ▶ Undergraduate and graduate student one-to-one tutoring
 - ▶ Online tutoring
 - ▶ Online resources for writing help
 - ▶ In-library guerilla tutoring
- 

WHAT DO WE WANT WAC TO BECOME?

- ▶ **Vision**

- ▶ I would like the WAC program to be known as the best online resource for writing across the curriculum in Canada, and, eventually, as one of the best in the world. I want our WAC program to serve as a model for other institutions in Canada to consider as they plan their own responses to the challenges of improving their students' writing abilities. I want faculty at the University of Alberta to access our WAC knowledge in the form of both our people (me, Heather Graves, WAC graduate assistants) and our online resources as they incorporate writing into their teaching.
- 

WAC MISSION/ACTIVITIES

- ▶ One-to-one help with individual faculty members
 - ▶ Membership on faculty of Nursing writing committee
 - ▶ Working with Academic Planning Committee in Engineering
 - ▶ Presentations to groups on campus interested in developing courses and requirements for students in their departments: Rehabilitation Medicine, School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine/Science (biochemistry), Human Ecology, Modern Languages, Educational Policy Studies (grad students)
 - ▶ Classroom presentations to Nursing 307, 394 and Mechanical Engineering 200
 - ▶ Development of the web site for WAC:
 - ▶ WAC research: research presentations at local, national, and international conferences
 - ▶ WAC research on campus: Faculty of Nursing
- 


IDEAS: SCRIPTURE REFERENCE




SAMPLE MISSION



DRAFTING/REVISING

- ▶ Get a “trusted reader” to get feedback
 - ▶ Consider using other students in the course, the Centre for Writers, or the WAC TA for this
 - ▶ Ask readers to read for specific purposes: thesis, structure, transitions, development of a particular paragraph or idea
- 

A & H THEME IDEAS

- ▶ Subjectivity/agency: understand and act/veritas and utilitas of the arts and humanities
 - ▶ Use symbolic systems of language and image to create, understand, interact with, and change society
 - ▶ Articulate, interrogate, and advocate alternative/multi-perspectival conceptions of society
 - ▶ Reassert the primacy of the arts and humanities' privileging of the humane at the moment when fields as disparate as computer science and engineering increasingly recognize that machines must be adapted to the people who use them and to humans— the Green agenda arises from a human desire, and technologies serve that desire
- 

DON'T HAND IN A FIRST DRAFT

Towards the due date, switch your focus from

higher-order concerns (arrangement, arguments, evidence) to

lower-order concerns: proofreading, grammar, citation format, grammar/
spelling



GOOD LUCK

- ▶ Get help from the WAC TA
 - ▶ Use print resources like books—copies of the Brief Penguin Handbook are in the Centre for Writers
 - ▶ Revise
- 