

ART HISTORY 309: PROPOSAL AND SEMINAR PAPER

Roger Graves

Director, Writing Across the
Curriculum

University of Alberta

ROGER GRAVES



Roger Graves
Director, Writing Across the Curriculum
Professor, EFS

February 13, 2009

wac
c4w
writing initiatives
webmail
efs

I'm new to the University of Alberta, having come from the University of Western Ontario where I was Director of the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. In my new position here I'll be working with faculty and students across the university as part of the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative. I will also be working with students and faculty in the Department of English and Film Studies.

I am the author, co-author, or editor of five 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-Vice-President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW) and a member of the Executive Board of the Canadian



Recent presentations
This page contains links to pdfs of slides displayed at presentations I've given.

Books
This page displays the covers and descriptions of books I've authored, co-authored, or co-edited

Blog: Thinking About Writing
A new blog on writing-related issues

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~graves/index.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

 *Writing Initiatives*
University of Alberta  *Writing Across the Curriculum*

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

[Home > Home](#)

Today:
9/2/2009 10:31:23 AM

[C4W](#)
[WRS Courses](#)
[Roger Graves](#)
[Blog](#)
[Academic Honesty](#)

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/>

THE WRITING PROCESS

Getting started

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



Getting feedback

- Make an appointment at a writing centre
- Get feedback on your draft/revise

Revising

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

YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

Proposal:

1. Title
2. Working definition of “sustainable design”
3. General area of research
4. Specific focus of research
5. Framework for analysis (social, economic, political, cultural?)
6. Theoretical tools used in analysis (from course readings, class discussions)

TOPIC AND FOCUS: THESIS STATEMENTS

General

- ▶ Richard Buckminster Fuller's Sustainable Design and Design Theory"

Specific

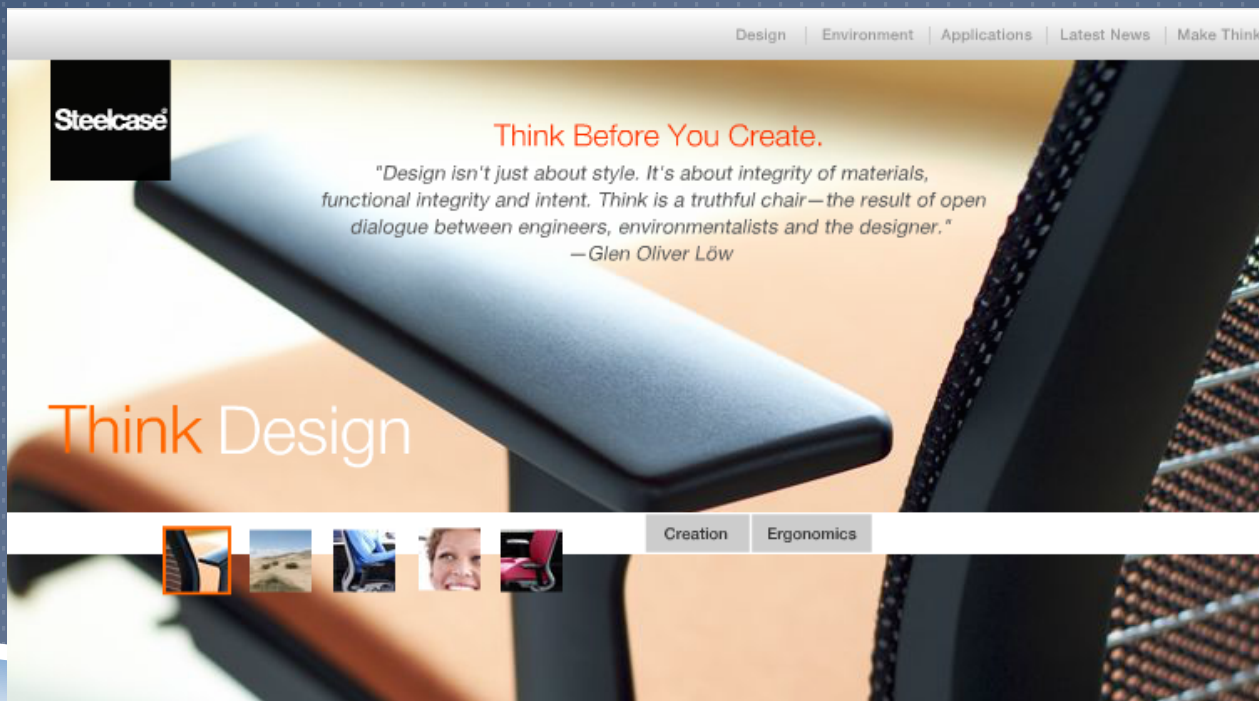
- ▶ RBF design in the 1930s: a sustainable alternative?

FORMULATE A RESEARCH QUESTION

- *WHAT* has already been said about your topic? [What does the literature tell you about it and what questions does it leave unanswered?]
- *WHAT* are you interested in researching and
- *WHAT* question are you trying to understand?

SAMPLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- “How is sustainable design changing furniture design today?”



<http://www.steelcase.com/en/products/category/seating/task/think/Pages/overview.aspx>

THE PROPOSAL GENRE

- Problem
- Solution
- Plan of action

- Introduction
- Definition (what is the problem?)
- Background/Literature review (what have others said about the issue?)
- Recommendation (what solution do you propose?)
- Work plan (how will you implement the solution?)

Description of topic

Summary of reading in annotated bibliography

Proposed study/research you will conduct

Annotated bibliography

WORKING DEFINITION OF “SUSTAINABLE DESIGN”

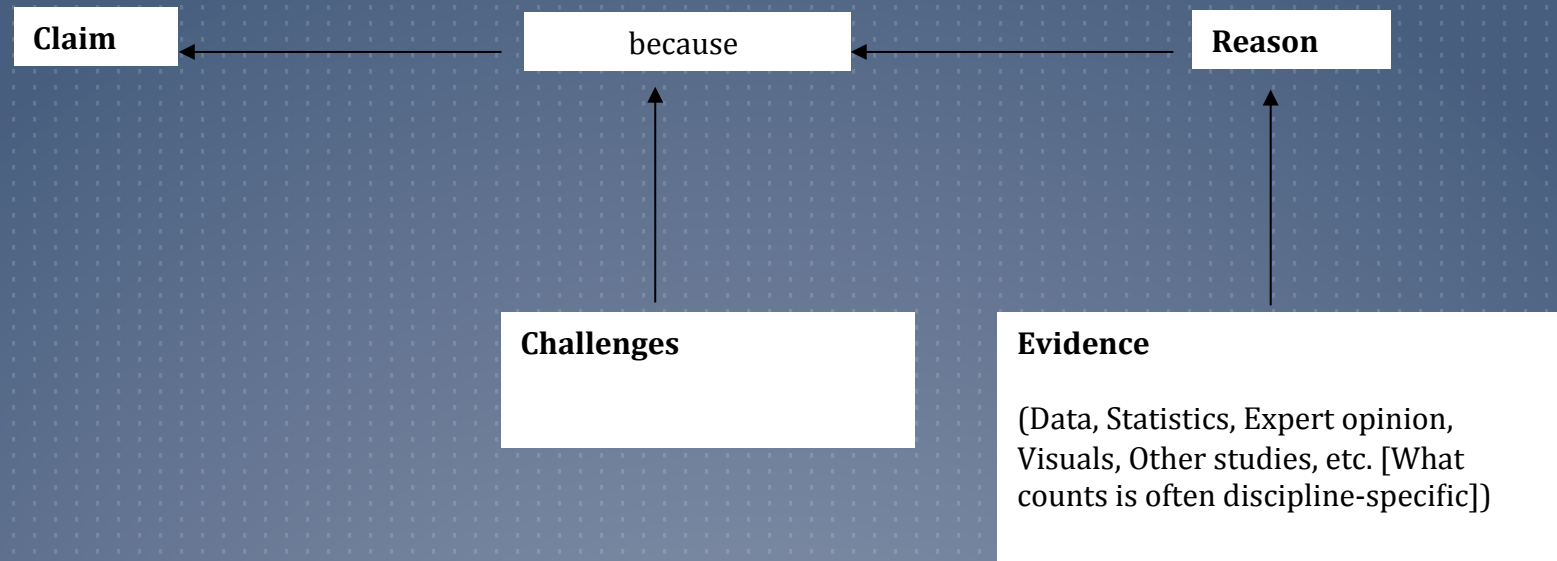
What are the components of such a definition?

- ▶ Shifts human behaviour
- ▶ Uses renewable resources
- ▶ Uses durable materials
- ▶ Uses less energy in manufacturing and in use
- ▶ Assessment of impact

WORKING (NOT FINAL) THESIS

Topic	Ideology and office furniture
Researchable question	“What ideas from sustainable design have made their way into the design of office furniture today?”
Working thesis	Companies like Steelcase advertise products such as the new Think chair by linking it directly to sustainability through the use of recycled materials in production to considering how it will be disposed of. These products show the way to a sustainable future and point to ways that we can use design to improve the world.

INFORMAL ARGUMENT AND ACADEMIC WRITING




FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS

What is the framework for analysis that we might use for this topic?

- ▶ social
- ▶ economic
- ▶ political
- ▶ cultural

Design | Environment | Applications | Latest News | Make Think

Steelcase Meet the Environmentalists. 

To create Think, we worked with McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC), selecting only materials considered safe to the environment. We kept the chair lightweight and used as many recycled materials as possible. We also worked with the Institute of Product Development in Denmark to conduct a complete Life Cycle Assessment, evaluating the chair's lifelong impact on the environment—from materials extraction, through production, shipping, use and end of life. Download Think environmental information at steelcase.com.

Think Environment

Impact | Steelcase Environmental Partnership

Environment Canada
www.ec.gc.ca

Français | Home | Contact Us | Help | Search | canada.gc.ca

Home > Sustainable Development - OLD > Sustainable Business: Corporate Environmental Innovation

The Department Sustainability

About Environment Canada

Minister of the Environment

Sustainable development can be defined as the process of developing land, cities, businesses and communities so that our current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It recognizes that social, economic and environmental issues are interconnected and that decisions must incorporate each of these aspects in order to be successful over the longer term.

Obama Administration Rejects Keystone Pipeline

Published: Wednesday, 18 Jan 2012 | 4:21 PM ET

Text Size

'We're Complete Fools' for Cancelling Pipeline: Pickens

Published: Wednesday, 18 Jan 2012 | 3:26 PM ET

Text Size

By: Margo D. Beller

Special to CNBC.com

THEORETICAL TOOLS USED IN ANALYSIS

- ▶ What theoretical tools might we use to analyse this topic?

DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR THE ESSAY

- ▶ **Title:** Think forward: Sustainable design in the 21st century workplace
- ▶ **Introduction:** define SD; sketch history of it by linking to readings in class; end with problem of translating these ideas into practical office furniture
- ▶ **Main sections:** must identify historical context; must use theories discussed in course

DRAFTING/REVISING

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

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