

# WRS 102: Writing in the Disciplines

## An introduction to Academic Writing

### What it is

WRS 102 is a blended-format course that meets once a week for one hour but requires several hours per week of work online in the Game of Writing application.

The course requires students to write 4 major writing assignments. For each assignment students will:

- Choose which version of the assignment they want to work on depending on their discipline (for example, a science student might choose the version relevant to science writing).
- Write drafts and track progress within the Game of Writing application.
- Submit drafts for review by peers, peer tutors, TAs and the instructor.
- Comment on the drafts that other students write.
- Revise their work based on peer-comments and tutor comments.
- Attend once a week in-person class meetings.
- Participate online within the Game of Writing application: view video, read course materials, and complete online tasks.

### Who should take it

WRS 102 is a first year course and so is aimed at an introductory or junior-level student in any program across the University who is fluent in English.

Most of the work of the course takes place online in the Game of Writing application; students who sign up for the course will need to participate in the online environment regularly (every week) and for extended time (several hours). You'll need to be a self-starter, motivated to do well, and willing to help the other students in the course through your reviews of their work.

The gamified online environment will provide you with extensive feedback about your writing as your progress through the course. Examples of this feedback include:

- how much you are writing,
- how many of the writing tasks you have completed for each major assignment, and
- how useful your comments are about other students' writing.

To succeed, you will need to be comfortable studying and participating in an online environment.

Office of Interdisciplinary Studies ✍ Faculty of Arts  
University of Alberta

<http://www.ois.ualberta.ca/en/WritingStudies.aspx>

## More about the course

The course is about how to write well at university. Writing at a university-level is a complicated undertaking for a number of reasons:

- The kinds of writing students are required to do vary considerably from one program to another
- The definition of “good” writing varies across the university
- Instructors as audiences vary in what they expect from students
- The process of writing varies from one kind of writing to another

Students who don't take a writing course must figure out how to produce acceptable texts on their own. In WRS 102, we'll work with you to help you become better at understanding what texts you need to produce and how to write those texts.

Students will choose to write four assignments from a range of about 12 options, including:

- An observation or description of some phenomenon (natural feature; artistic performance; or social event)
- A research-based text (bibliographic essay; synthesis of research report; or reflective essay)
- A scientific research report, position essay, or analysis report
- Poster, presentation, or teaching demonstration

You'll have multiple opportunities to draft and revise your work, and you'll be required to read and comment on the work of other students in the class. You will also be able to select assignments that are the kinds of writing required in the program you will be majoring in.

We will have only one hour of in-person meeting time per week. You'll be expected to work online, though, reading and doing exercises for several more hours per week. We'll have a team of instructors who will also comment on your work and answer questions you have, both in-person and via digital means.