

New Jersey Institute of Technology
ENGL 102 | Maryann Aita
Introduction to Research Writing

Name: Professor Maryann Aita (ATE-uh)

Email: maryann.aita@njit.edu | maa389@njit.edu

Office hours: Tues/Thur 11:45am – 12:45pm (or by appointment if you email me)

Office: Cullimore 332

Course Description

ENGL 102 takes a multidisciplinary approach to researching and writing in various genres while emphasizing information literacy. While building on the skills learned and practiced in ENGL 101, students will research and write about issues in their disciplines in various genres, investigating a wide range of sources, crafting arguments and proposing solutions. To reinforce the arguments in these written works, students will create visual arguments with the course culminating in oral presentations of these written and visual works. Students will immerse themselves in various types of research and information gathering and make appropriate choices in genre, format, development and style to create their own original texts geared toward existing publications or organizations. The purpose of this class is to prepare students for research and writing in various genres in their majors, and, ultimately, for communication (written, visual, oral) in their professional work.

Instructor Policies

My course policies are available on Canvas. I require students to take a quiz covering these policies on the first day of class.

Course Goals

During this course students will:

- Review the writing process and its non-linear, recursive nature.
- Research, draft, revise and edit various genres on topics of your choice.
- Find, evaluate and choose sources effectively, building on rhetorical analysis skills from ENGL 101.
- Create multimodal visual arguments supported by your research on your chosen topics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of academic integrity in the creation of your own original written and visual work for all assignments.
- Demonstrate knowledge of formatting for American Psychology Association (APA) citation style.

No required text

This course makes use of books and resources found on <http://library.njit.edu> and other pdf and word document files and resources provided on Canvas as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

Assignments & Assessment

Students' grades will be calculated as follows based on a 100-point scale:

Participation | 10%

Includes attendance AND your consistently active presence in class, submission of assignments on time, and satisfactory completion of in-class activities

Museum visit and critical review | 10%

Visit a local museum, conduct research, and write a critical review of one exhibit and its significance (4-5 pages)

Job description and oral presentation | 5%

Written job description of the job you wish to have someday, addressed to professional colleagues, and a first sketch of a researchable problem or issue in the field (500 words)
Oral presentation in class (2 minutes)

Research Outline (Research proposal) | 10%

Two References pages (with annotations) on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal defining your respective audiences

Infographic | 5%

An infographic demonstrating a key concept in your white paper

White Paper | 30%

A 7-10 page "white paper" written to a targeted/niche audience that presents a problem and proposed solution (should include your infographic embedded within the paper)

General Audience Paper | 20%

A 5-6 page written article targeted to an existing publication
Video essay on article

Video Essay | 5%

A video essay presenting key points from your general audience paper

Oral and visual presentation | 5%

Give a short presentation related to white paper infographic or your video essay

University Grading Scale

All assignments and other required work will be graded using the following scale. Students must receive a C or better to pass this course.

A 100-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-70 F 69-0

First-Year Writing Policies & Procedures for Student Success
Participation and Attendance

Attendance and participation are critical to your success in this class. Participation is required for all in-class activities, including drafting, revising, discussions, peer support and discussion board writings. Students need to attend AND participate in class with regularity. I expect students to **speak up** (ask or answer a question, share a thought or observation, volunteer a draft for review, etc.) **at least twice every class period**. Level of engagement with the material is often correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' developing a writing process of their own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

Attendance

You may miss up to two classes without penalty. Regular participation in class activities is required to earn participation points. **More than six unexcused absences (three weeks of the course) can result in failure of the class.** Activities and peer review as part of the writing process cannot be made up, and not participating in these classes will have an impact on how well a student can implement the skills and strategies necessary to succeed in this course.

Students who expect to miss class for religious observances should contact their instructor about these dates at the beginning of the semester (per university policy).

All assignments must be submitted on Canvas (which automatically assesses for plagiarism and AI generation using Turnitin). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment.

Essays

There are 4 written assignments (a job description, a proposal with 2 References pages, an article written for a general audience and a white paper). All papers should be submitted according to the formatting in the Canvas course policies.

Students must submit a rough draft and a final draft to receive a grade for the museum review, the general audience paper, and the white paper. Without engaging in the writing process throughout the semester on required assignments, students cannot pass the course.

Students will receive written and oral feedback from their instructor on their drafts. These comments should guide your drafting process. Drafts may also be reviewed in small peer groups during class time or in whole-class review (when students volunteer their drafts to be improved by the class). Engagement in these activities will count toward participation grades.

Visual arguments

In conjunction with the written assignments, students will create a video essay or journal-like layout with visuals for their writing for a general audience. The white paper will be accompanied by an infographic or other substantial visual effort.

Late Work

Late work will receive a reduced grade. Late work is counted as anything submitted **more than two hours after the deadline on Canvas** (unless you have an extension that was discussed with me well in advance). I allow some wiggle room in case of technical issues or, more likely, some

underestimating your ability to procrastinate. Late work submitted within a day of the due date will receive a 5% grade reduction. Work submitted within a 2 weeks of the deadline will receive a 15% grade reduction. Anything more than two weeks late will receive a 30% grade reduction.

If you are having difficulty completing an assignment, contact me well in advance of the due date so I can help you.

Technology

Canvas is NJIT's learning management system. In First-Year Writing (FYW) instructors share course materials, grade assignments, give feedback on drafts, participate in discussions while students read course material, view assignments, submit essays, write and create in discussion boards. There are no written exams in FYW. Participation on discussion boards or other short essays or responses are regularly completed on Canvas and will count toward students' participation grade.

Students use their NJIT email as the primary method of communication and maintain an appropriate tone. Include an appropriate subject line and name in all emails for more efficient correspondence.

Students should not use cell phones during class unless needed for a specific activity. Resist the distraction and focus on one thing at a time - classroom lessons, activities and discussion. Active engagement in class leads to better outcomes in grading. Everyone should set phones to silent as a courtesy.

Laptops should only be used when we are drafting, researching, note taking or otherwise engaging in classroom activities requiring them. Students that practice professional, focused behavior now will be more prepared for the work world!

NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Code on Academic Integrity. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Chat GPT & Grammarly

First-Year Writing (FYW) follows the guidelines from the NJIT University Code of Academic Integrity:

“Artificial intelligence usage is not permitted in this course. The expectation of this course is for students to work through the course without assistance from any type of artificial intelligence to better develop their own skills in this content area. As such, artificial intelligence usage is not permitted throughout this course.”

Accessibility Needs

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at 973-596-5417.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center (Central King Building G17) is available for in-person and virtual sessions. This resource is free and intended to help you improve your writing and communication skills with tutors who help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, for classes, personal statements, etc. For more information or to make an appointment, please visit <https://www.njit.edu/writingcenter/>.

ENGL 102 Course Schedule

Assignments, discussion posts, and readings will be published on Canvas each week. [It is your responsibility to check Canvas for due dates and assignment details.](#)

Week 1 | Sep 3 & 5

- Introductions, syllabus, course policies, and expectations.
- Discuss museum visits, plagiarism, library and research resources, and interdisciplinary lenses.

Week 2 | Sep 10 & 12

- Review rhetorical analysis concepts as applied to museum visit. Review interdisciplinary lenses. Introduce NJIT Library resources and Canvas modules.
- Museum visit and critical review preparation: Research a museum of your choice; find an exhibit for critical review; visit and analyze the exhibit from multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary lenses. Peer discussion of outlines, drafts, and notes.

MUSEUM CRITICAL REVIEW ROUGH DRAFT DUE Sep 12

Week 3 | Sep 17 & 19

- Begin to explore topics for general audience essay. Intro to APA style and paraphrasing activity.
- Revision and critical reading activities. Interdisciplinary lenses. **Peer review of museum drafts.**

Week 4 | Sep 24 & 26

- Exploring careers and job description assignment preparation. Small group discussion and research activity. APA review.
- Identifying a problem and getting started with your research. In-class drafting and revision time for the job description assignment.

MUSEUM CRITICAL REVIEW DUE Sep 26 (10% of total grade)

Week 5 | Oct 1 & 3

JOB DESCRIPTION DUE Oct 1 at the start of class (5% of total grade)

- *Oral presentations* (2 minutes) of job description and problem.
- Begin work on research plan/proposals. Defining a problem, narrowing audience, and clarifying interdisciplinary lenses. Small group work and discussion.

Week 6 | Oct 8 & 10

- APA quiz (open-note, with a partner). Review of paraphrasing, citations, and reference lists. Collect 2 sets of references for **2 lenses on the same topic**; sort and pre-write (paraphrase, collect quotes, arrange key concepts, and begin to outline written work).
- Critical reading strategies, organizing research, and prewriting. Analysis activity and in-class debate.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL & REFERENCE PAGES DUE Oct 10 (10% of total grade)

Week 7 | Oct 15 & 17

- Prewriting, organization, making connections. What is a white paper? Small group work/share out of defining aspects of a white paper. Prewriting for white paper project.
- Introduce visual argument and infographic. Defining your audience small group activity/infographic.

First draft or outline (~2 pages) due Oct 17; find more sources and redirect, as needed.

Week 8 | Oct 22 & 24

- Continue prewriting activities (researching, note taking, making connections to publications and current research), begin drafting.
- Discussion: revision tactics, analysis, composition.

Second (rough) draft (~4 pages) due at the start of class Oct 24

- Peer review and class revision of volunteers' drafts

Week 9 | Oct 29 & Oct 31

- Continue peer reviews and in-class writing assignment and reflection. Reverse outline.
- Review visual arguments. Review citations and providing credible sources. Discussion and in-class reading.

INFOGRAPHIC DUE Oct 31 (5% of total grade)

Week 10 | Nov 5 & 7

- Finding a target journal for your general audience paper. Small group work critiquing existing articles.
- Deconstruct and reverse outline general audience articles.

WHITE PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE Nov 7 (30% of total grade)

Week 11 | Nov 12 & 14

- Refining general audience topic and eliminating/adding sources. Writing for a publication.
- Continue exploring your topic for the general audience essay through the lens of 2-3 academic disciplines; discuss rhetorical strategies used in various types of sources including peer-reviewed journal articles.

Week 12 | Nov 19 & 21

- In class reading and drafting. Introduce video essay and create working definition. Group “How to Research” video essay or infographic.

First draft (~3 – 4 pages) of General audience paper due Nov 21

- Review and feedback on volunteer papers. Open discussion and peer-to-peer questions/strategies. Finalize in-class video/infographic on “How to Research.”

Week 13 | Nov 26

- Course review and key concepts. Complete library research modules. Oral presentation expectations. Peer review and written reflections.

Week 14 | Dec 3 & 5

Oral presentations begin (5% of total grade)

VIDEO ESSAY DUE Dec 3 (10% of total grade)

Week 15 | Dec 10

Oral presentations continued

GENERAL AUDIENCE PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE Dec 12 (20% of total grade)



NEED HELP?

KNOW WHO TO CALL

Please note following important numbers that will come in handy in case of emergency:

EXTERNAL RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
Suicide Prevention	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 623-2323 (University Hospital-Newark)
Drug/ Alcohol Addiction	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 630-8262
Crime Victim Compensation Office	Monday – Friday 8 AM – 8 PM	(877) 658-2221
Rape Care Center	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 733-2273 (Essex County)
Sexual Assault Hotline	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(800) 656-HOPE (National)
Psychiatric Emergency	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 924-7416 (Newark Beth Israel Hospital)
NJIT RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
NJIT Public Safety	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 596-3111 (Emergency) (973) 596-3120 (Non-Emergency)
Dean of Students (TITLE IX – Sexual Misconduct Report/Response)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3466
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 5 PM	(973) 596-3414
Student Health Services (SHS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3621