



New Jersey Institute of Technology
ENGL 102
Introduction to Research Writing

Professor: Kyle Mednick

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Office hours: Mondays: 3:45 pm - 5:45 pm
or by appointment

Office location: Cullimore 315

Meeting Days: Tuesday / Friday

Meeting Time: 4:00 pm - 5:20 pm

Meeting Location: FMH 106

"I began to realize how important it was to be an enthusiast in life. If you are interested in something, no matter what it is, go at it full speed ahead. Embrace it with both arms, hug it, love it, and above all become passionate about it. Lukewarm is no good. Hot is no good either. White hot and passionate is the only thing to be." ~Roald Dahl

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.

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 by the instructor as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

Course Assignments & Assessments**Participation 10%**

Includes attendance, effort and timeliness and your consistently active presence in class, submission of all assignments on time and satisfactory completion of in-class writing activities

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)

Museum visit and critical review 10%

Visit a local museum, conduct research and create a 3-5 minute presentation with 5-10 photos of your visit, including details of your research, and a look at the exhibit of your choice through the lens of your chosen major.

References pages and proposal for written work 10%

Two References pages (8+ sources each) on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal

White paper and infographic 35%

Research content and targeted audience to write a 7-10 page white paper presenting a problem and proposed solution	30%
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Infographic for white paper	5%
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Written work for a general audience and video essay 25%

Research content and targeted publications for a 5-6 page general audience article	20%
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Video essay on article	5%
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Oral and visual presentation 5%

Present your White Paper or General Audience paper, focusing on the research process, the research itself, and the writing process.

University grading scale:

All assignments and other required work will be graded using the following scale:

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

All assignments will earn a letter grade that will correspond to the numerical scale above. Papers will be graded using the Written Communication VALUE Rubric.

First-Year Writing 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 in all class activities including reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, asking questions and responding to one another. Additionally, there will be informal class writings as well as regular workshopping in which students apply the day's lesson to their writing in progress. We will also politely do peer and class reviews. 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 one week of class (or two classes) without penalty. Every subsequent unexcused absence will result in the deduction of participation points. Regular participation in class activities and workshops (many are graded) is required to earn participation points. Not participating in the writing process will be met with further deductions. **More than six unexcused absences (three weeks of the course) can result in failure of the course:** activities and workshopping as part of the writing process cannot be made up, and not participating in these classes often leaves students disconnected from the practical skills needed for each genre. Missing an excessive amount of classes will result in an instructor report to the student's advisor. See university attendance policy [here](#).

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). Whenever possible, seek [absence verification](#) from the DOS.

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

Major Assignments

There are 5 major assignments: a job description, a critical museum review, a proposal with 2 reference pages, a white paper, and an essay / article for a general audience.

Students must submit at least one rough draft and a final draft to be considered for a grade for that assignment. Without engaging in the writing process throughout the semester on required assignments, students cannot pass the course.

Students will receive written feedback from instructors as a vital step in the writing/revision process. These guiding comments should be followed by students in the drafting process, and engagement in this process will be assessed as part of students' participation grade. 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).

Class activities and discussion are vital in evaluating students' engagement with coursework and are often graded as part of the participation grade (10% of their overall grade for the course).

Visual arguments

In conjunction with the written assignments. The white paper will be accompanied by an infographic or other substantial visual effort. Students will create a video essay for their writing for a general audience.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted (except in the case of an excused absence—see DOS absence verification). Students should contact their instructor in advance of due dates when having difficulty completing an assignment.

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!** Inappropriate use of technology can impact the participation grade at the end of the semester.

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.

AI Use / Chat GPT

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.”

Turnitin evaluates all sorts of academic integrity violations. This tool detects unauthorized use of quotes and repurposed text (including borrowing of papers). Turnitin flags AI-generated text and use of grammar assistants that actually rewrite entire sentences. **None of these tools are acceptable** in student writing in ENGL 101 and ENGL 102. Students in violation of the rules of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean of Students who will follow up with a meeting and a final determination of grade and status in the 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 help. 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/>.

Center for Counseling and Psychological Services

The NJIT Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS) is committed to assisting students in the achievement of their academic goals as well as benefiting from their personal experiences on campus. For more, visit: <https://www.njit.edu/counseling/>

Calendar of DUE Dates for MAJOR Assignments

Major Assignment	DUE Date
Written Job Description (In Class)	Tuesday 1/28
Job Description Presentation (In Class)	Friday 1/31
Museum Project Presentations (In Class)	Friday, 2/14
Reference Pages & Proposal	Sunday, 2/23 11:59 PM
White Paper Infographic	Monday 3/3, 11:59 PM
First Draft - White Paper	Thursday, 3/6, 11:59 PM
Final Draft - White Paper	Sunday, 3/16, 11:59 PM
First Draft - General Audience Paper	Monday, 4/7, 11:59 PM
Final Draft - General Audience Paper	Sunday, 4/20, 11:59 PM
Video Essay	Thursday, 4/24, 11:59 PM
Presentations (In Class)	Tuesday 4/29 and Friday 5/2

ENGL 102
Course Schedule

Week 1:	<p>Tuesday 1/21</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Introductions • Syllabus, Course, & Schedule Overview <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Student Questionnaire • Read: “Teacher Growth Through Professional Development” (Murray et al., 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post two observations BEFORE class on 1/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1. An observation about the writing itself ■ 2. An observation about the content (a key takeaway from the article) <p>Friday 1/24</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of “Teacher Growth Through Professional Development” • Library Research Resources • Writing Center Overview • Job Description Assignment & Presentation Overview <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a job for the Job Description Assignment. Find three sources of information on the job and create a reference page in APA format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit on Canvas post BEFORE class on 1/28
Week 2:	<p>Tuesday 1/28</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Museum Visit Project • In-Class: Job Description Writing <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare presentation of job description <p>Friday 1/31</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Description Presentations (2 minutes) • Intro to White Paper <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and visit your museum of choice • Prepare your presentation and written reflection

Week 3:	<p>Tuesday 2/4</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research tools, strategies, and more! • Museum Visit Presentation Signup <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your museum of choice if you have not already • Prepare your presentation and written reflection <p>Friday 2/7</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Research Proposal • Research Planning - creating a source list <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your museum of choice if you have not already • Prepare your presentation and written reflection
Week 4:	<p>Tuesday 2/11</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Research Proposal • Research Planning - creating a source list <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin gathering research for 500 word Research Proposal assignment. Must include at least 8 sources for each of the 2 lenses. <p>Friday 2/14</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Visit Presentations <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit your museum presentation and written response after your presentation
Week 5:	<p>Tuesday 2/18</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing and formatting source lists • Outlining the White Paper • Exploring sample white papers <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile your two source lists. Write 500-word draft of research proposal and submit on Canvas before class on Friday 2/21

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and examine organization of White Paper samples in your discipline(s). Identify and outline your sections. <p>Friday 2/21</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals- group discussion / workshop <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit final Reference Pages and 500-Word Proposal by Sunday, 2/23, 11:19 PM
Week 6:	<p>Tuesday 2/25</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographic Information, Samples, and Activity <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on Infographics • Continue drafting White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First draft due before class 3/7 <p>Friday 2/28</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhetorical Skills / Analysis <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Infographic before class Tuesday 3/4 • Continue drafting White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First draft due before class 3/7
Week 7:	<p>Tuesday 3/4</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographic Presentations <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit first draft of White Paper before class on Friday 3/7 <p>Friday 3/7</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Paper Peer Review <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue revising White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final draft due 3/16, 11:59 PM

Week 8:	<p>Tuesday 3/11 - NO CLASS</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLASS <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue revising White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final draft due 3/16, 11:59 PM <p>Friday 3/14</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing, grammar, & formatting reminders <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Draft of White Paper Due Sunday 3/16, 11:59 pm.
Week 9:	NO CLASS: Spring Break 3/16 - 3/22
Week 10:	<p>Tuesday 3/25</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to General Audience Paper • Multidisciplinary Teams <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start drafting General Audience Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First draft due before class, 4/8 <p>Friday 3/28</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genre-specific writing • Rhetorical skills <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue drafting General Audience Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First draft due before class, 4/8
Week 11:	<p>Tuesday 4/1</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhetorical Reminders • Rhetorical Reading & In-Class Activity <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue drafting General Audience Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First draft due before class, 4/8

	<p>Friday 4/4</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary Team Presentation Info & Workshop <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit draft of General Audience Paper before class 4/8
Week 12:	<p>Tuesday 4/8</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Audience Paper Peer Review • Introduction to Video Essay Assignment <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue revising General Audience Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Final draft due 4/20, 11:59 PM <p>Friday 4/11</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Essay samples & in-class activity • Audience and rhetorical strategies using visuals and text <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue revising General Audience Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Final draft due 4/20, 11:59 PM • Continue working on Video Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Due Thursday 4/24, 11:59 PM
Week 13:	<p>Tuesday 4/15</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary Team • Team Workshop / Planning <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue revising General Audience Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Final draft due 4/20, 11:59 PM • Continue working on Video Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Due Thursday 4/24, 11:59 PM <p>Friday 4/18 - NO CLASS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLASS -GOOD FRIDAY

<p>Week 14:</p>	<p>Tuesday 4/22 <u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary Teams Presentations <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on Video Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Due Thursday 4/24, 11:59 PM • Submit FINAL Draft of General Audience Paper by Sunday 4/20, 11:59 PM • Finalize and submit Video Essay by Thursday, 4/24, 11:59 PM <p>Friday 4/25 <u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Presentations <p><u>Assignment:</u></p>
<p>Week 15:</p>	<p>Tuesday 4/29 <u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentations <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit your presentation materials after your presentation <p>Friday 5/2 <u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentations <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit your presentation materials after your presentation
<p>Week 16</p>	<p>Class does NOT meet on Tuesday 5/7. Our final class is Wednesday 5/7.</p> <p>Wednesday 5/7 <u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Evaluations • Final Reflections <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a great summer! 😊



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