

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

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Office hours: WED/FRI 11:45am - 12:45pm (or virtual with 24 hours' notice)

Office: Cullimore 315

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	
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 write a critical review of one exhibit and its significance (4-5 pages)	
References pages and proposal for written work	10%
Two References pages on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal	
Written work for a general audience and video essay	30%
Research content and targeted publications for 8-10 page written article	(25)
Video essay on article	(5)
White paper and infographic	25%
Research content and targeted audience to write a 5-6 page document presenting a problem and proposed solution	(20)
Infographic for white paper	(5)
Oral and visual presentation	10%
Present either your video essay (general audience) or your white paper (targeted audience)	

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 at least one rough draft and a final draft to receive 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 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

Work submitted after the due date will receive a 10% grade reduction for every day late. Work more than 1 week late will receive a 0. ***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

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

Week 1 | Jan 15 - 19

- Introductions, syllabus, course policies, and expectations
- Discuss museum visits, library and research resources, and research essay ideas

Week 2 | Jan 22 - 26

Discussion

Explore jobs and research topics. Introduce interdisciplinary lenses.

Research and Information Literacy

- Review ENGL 101/102 NJIT library guides.
- Visit NJIT's online library <https://library.njit.edu>:
 - Explore Academic Search Premier (EBSCO), Science Direct, and other databases and reference materials; explore online books.
- Begin to explore topics for general audience essay.

Find resources for job descriptions: Collect at least 3 sources to be included in your References page for your job description to professional colleagues.

JOB DESCRIPTION DUE JAN 26 at the start of class

Write a 500-word description about the job you may have one day. Additional details on Canvas.

Oral presentation of job descriptions and topic (2 minutes)

(5%)

Week 3 | Jan 29 – Feb 2

Discussion

Review rhetorical analysis concepts as applied to museum visit. Review interdisciplinary lenses.

In-class Writing

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.

Research

Continue to read and explore for writing project for a general audience.

Week 4 | Feb 5 - 9

Reading/research

Continue collecting sources; discuss topics, narrowing down and taking an argumentative stance in a project geared toward a general audience

MUSEUM CRITICAL REVIEW DUE FEB 9

Museum critical review due (4-5 pages)

(10%)

Week 5 | Feb 12 - 16

Discussion

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.

Writing assignment/research

Begin work on References pages: Collect 2 sets of references (10+ each) for 2 lenses on the same topic; sort and prewrite (paraphrase, collect quotes, arrange key concepts, and begin to outline written work)

Begin work on Proposals: 500-word proposal for two lenses and how they will be used in writing assignments for a general audience and white paper for a targeted audience

Week 6 | Feb 19 - 23**Discussion**

Critical reading strategies, organizing research, and prewriting.

Research

Continue research and begin planning and prewriting for writing project for a general audience.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE FEB 23

Two References pages and proposal due (APA format with 10+ sources each). Additional details on Canvas **(10%)**

Week 7 | Feb 26 – Mar 1**Discussion**

Prewriting, organization, making connections.

In-class Writing and Peer Review

Writing project for a general audience: Continue prewriting activities (researching, note taking, making connections to publications and current research).

First draft due in class; find more sources and redirect, as needed.

Week 8 | Mar 4 - 8**Discussion**

Writing project for a general audience: Revision tactics; composition revisions
Introduce visual argument and video essay

Peer review

Peer review, class revision of volunteers' drafts

SPRING RECESS | NO CLASS MARCH 10 – 16 - Enjoy your break!**Week 9 | Mar 18 - 22****WRITING PROJECT FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE – FINAL DRAFT DUE MAR 22**

Final draft of writing project (8 – 10 pgs.) for a general audience due. Additional details on canvas. **(25%)**

VIDEO ESSAY DUE MAR 22 – PRESENT IN CLASS

Video essay: Create a video essay on your writing project for a general audience. **(5%)**

Week 10 | Mar 25 - 29

Writing assignment

Begin work on a white paper on your second discipline (or interdisciplinary approach); find publications or other target audiences (include a separate paragraph explaining proposed audience).

NO CLASS MARCH 29th

Week 11 | Apr 1 - 5

Discussion

Introduction to infographics; in-class activity

Writing assignment

White paper first draft DUE APR 5
In-class review and peer feedback

Week 12 | Apr 8 – 12

Writing assignment and visual argument

Continue work on white paper; create an infographic.

INFOGRAPHIC DRAFT DUE APR 12 **(5%)**

Week 13 - 14 | Apr 15 - 19

WHITE PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE APR 19

Final revisions of white paper (5 -6 pgs.); finishing touches on infographic **(20%)**

Week 14 | Apr 22 - 26

Oral presentations

Choose either your general audience article or your white paper to present. Include your arguments and evidence along with your visual argument (video essay or infographic). **(10%)**

Week 15 | Apr 29 – 30

CLASS MEETS TUESDAY, APRIL 30th.

Continue oral presentations!



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