

# **Welcome to ENGL101, Introduction to Academic Writing!**

## **ENGL101-089, Fall 2025 – TR 2:30pm - 3:50pm**

**Instructor:** Ashley Darkwa-Anto

**Email:** ad2497@njit.edu

**Classroom:** FMH 321

**Office Location:** CULM 315B

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:00pm - 2:00pm in person, or via Zoom by appointment

### **Course Description**

ENGL 101 is an introduction to college-level writing. In this course, students are introduced to writing's rhetorical dimensions; they are asked to consider the purpose, audience, occasion, and genre that are called for in a variety of writing, speaking, and visual assignments. This course focuses on writing processes, asking students to brainstorm topics, collect ideas and research, write drafts, and revise their writing based on writing's disciplinary rules, on self-reflection and on instructor, peer and class feedback. Academic writing begins with the assumption that written, visual, and spoken texts can be in conversation with each other. Students are asked to read challenging articles, essays, and prose (and to consider visual and spoken compositions) which serve as both models of effective communication and as beginning places for students' own arguments and analyses.

### **Prerequisites**

Entrance is determined by assessment results. Students who have successfully completed ENGL 099 are admitted to this class. ENGL 101 students must receive a C or better to pass the course.

### **Course Goals**

During this course you will:

- Gain knowledge of writing's rhetorical dimensions
- Use writing as a tool for critical thinking and reflection
- Practice writing as a process by using various brainstorming, invention, revision, and editing strategies
- Write in several genres that utilize analysis, reflection, research, narrative, critique, and argument skills
- Practice using the conventions of written, spoken, and visual composition
- Practice writing and creating in digital environments

### **Required Texts**

- This course makes use of books and resources found on <http://library.njit.edu> and other PDF and Word Document files provided by the instructor as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

## Assignments & Assessment

A student's final grade for the course will be divided into the following parts:

### **Literacy Narrative Essay (3-4 pages)      Weeks 1-3      15%**

This essay focuses on a notable moment or aspect of your becoming literate; it's written in the first person and defines and develops your approach to language use and genre.

### **Argument (Position) Essay (4-5 pages)      Weeks 4-7      20%**

This essay extracts academic arguments from 2 assigned readings/sources and presents a claim that may be supported or disputed by those sources, by real-world examples and by your own academic knowledge.

### **Rhetorical Analysis Essay (2+ pages)      Weeks 8-9      15%**

This essay assignment must be completed **in class** on the day scheduled by your instructor. You are required to analyze (break down) a text provided for you for the first time at the beginning of the class period. Read, respond, write. Present as coherently as possible as many of the elements of rhetoric analysis as you can manage in an 80-minute class session. You will be graded on your knowledge of rhetorical devices and your critical thinking in response to how these devices are used by the author. Class time before this in-class essay will consist of practice with these rhetorical devices.

### **Research Argument Essay (5-6 pages)      Weeks 10-15      25%**

This essay is focused coherently on your original argument and uses 4-5 library sources for support; this work will help prepare you for more extended research writing in ENGL 102. You may use a couple of non-library sources but do so sparingly and be sure to use your information literacy skills to determine credibility.

### **Oral Presentation and Powerpoint on Research Argument      10%**

You will have the chance to present to the class your research findings.

### **Participation and Effort      15%**

Your participation and effort are essential to your success in our writing process course. Regular attendance is not enough. Your instructor will be looking for your engagement with the material and your efforts in drafting your essays. Turning assignments in on time is required to earn full participation points. Class participation includes regular attendance, engagement in class activities and discussions, reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, asking questions and responding to one another. Participation is required for all in-class activities, including drafting, revising, discussions, peer and class reviews. Class time may consist of discussion board writings, short writing assignments which may include responses to assigned readings, topic exploration, prewriting activities including brainstorming and outlining, writing to learn, developing, organizing, transitioning and reflecting on the

writing process. All of your work on these short assignments and in workshops is included in your participation grade. Level of engagement with the process and materials is usually correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' understanding and development of a writing process of their own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

Individual and group work will be evaluated according to the university's grading scale:

A = 100-90	B+ = 89-87	B = 86-80	C+ = 79-77	C = 76-70	F = 69-0
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**If a rough draft is found to contain 20-40% AI-generated or assisted written work, 15 points will be deducted from the student's final grade on that assignment.**

**If a final draft is found to contain 20-40% AI-generated or assisted written work, 30 points will be deducted from the student's final grade on that assignment.**

**If a rough or final draft is found to contain 40-100% AI-generated or assisted written work, the work will be reported to the Dean of Students who will meet with the student and determine the final grade on that assignment and if any further action needs to be taken.**

**If a student uses AI generation or assistance on both a rough and a final draft for one assignment, this is reported to the Dean of Students for determination of final grade.**

## **First-Year Writing Procedures for Student Success:**

### **Attendance and Participation**

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 workshoping in class 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.

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-generated text using Turnitin as well as grammar or translation apps). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment.

### **Essays**

There are 4 formal essays completed in ENGL 101: **Literacy Narrative, Argument (position), Rhetorical Analysis, and Research Argument.**

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

Students will receive feedback from instructors on Canvas and in conferences as vital steps in the writing/revision process. These guiding comments should be followed by students in the drafting process, and this process will be assessed as part of the 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 evidence of students' engagement with coursework and are often graded as part of the participation grade (15% of the overall grade for the course).

### **Late Work**

**Late work will not be accepted** (except in the case of an excused absence designated by the Dean of Students). 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 and students use this system for all activities including submitting essays, sharing course materials, creating discussions, and grading assignments. 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. Maintain an appropriate tone in all school-related correspondence. Include an appropriate subject line and your 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. Set your phones to silent as a courtesy.

Laptops should only be used when we are drafting, researching, note taking or otherwise engaging in classroom activities. Students should practice professional, focused behavior now to enhance preparation 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 your instructor's 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](mailto: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. Written and visual works are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

### **AI-Generated Text**

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 and purchasing 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 or ENGL 102. Your plagiarism percentage appears on the submission page for each assignment. The AI percentage is available only to instructors. Ask your instructor if you have questions about AI use. 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 your instructor 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 (G17 Central King) is available for individual and group appointments with professional and peer writing tutors. This resource helps you to improve your communication and writing skills. Tutors can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. The Writing Center is not simply a grammar fix or editing service. For more information, please visit:

<http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter/schedule-writing-center-appointment/>.

## ENGL 101 Course Schedule

Class time may consist of readings, mini lectures, videos, visuals, workshops on writing process, small and whole group activities and reviews of drafts and reflections.

***Please note that this schedule is subject to change.***

### Week 1

#### **September 2nd**

- Introductions
- Discuss syllabus
- Explore Canvas course
- **In-class** diagnostic essay

#### **September 4th**

- **Freewrite/Discussion:** Why are students coming into college poorly prepared to write? Do you think you're prepared for college writing? If so, what skills/tools do you possess that will help you during the writing process and how? If not, what do you think you need for you to be successful in the writing process?
  - <https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/design/teach/instructionalstrategies/writing/poorlyprepared.html>
- **Lecture:** Literacy Narrative
  - <https://writingcraft.commons.gc.cuny.edu/literacy-essay-examples/>
- **Assignment:** Introduce Literacy Narrative Assignment
  - Share [rubric](#)
- **Activity:** The Writing Process
  - Watch a video that introduces the writing process and concepts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1pnpL8295E&t=4s>
- **Writing Process:** Brainstorming

### Week 2

#### **September 9th**

- **Freewrite/Discussion:** Recall a story—whether from a movie, book, TV show, or even something someone told you—that involves a character entering a new world (e.g., a school, workplace, or community very different from theirs). Describe: What kind of challenges did the character face? How did they communicate or behave differently in that space? Which parts of their journey felt like “equipment for living”—guiding, comforting, or preparing them (or you) for similar challenges? Then, reflect: How might that narrative help you as you

- navigate your own academic path? What strategies or attitudes from the story resonate with your own experience or hopes?
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3AscDs%3AUS%3A418c1a01-9df3-30b9-b8b7-014b5689a9e3>
  - Review Literacy Narrative Examples
    - <https://writingcraft.commons.gc.cuny.edu/literacy-essay-examples/>
    - <https://gwritings.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-art-of-eating-spaghetti.html>
    - <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3AscDs%3AUS%3A8a79fd03-7891-3a11-b443-3431a0aa925d> - ENGL101 Samples
  - **Activity:** Assign a sample to a group and have them discuss strengths, weaknesses, and key features they can identify
  - **Writing Process:** Drafting

### **September 11th**

- **Discussion Board:** Tell a brief story or develop a concept that might serve as the central idea for your literacy narrative.
- **Lecture:** APA Style
  - <https://apastyle.apa.org/>
  - [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html)
- **Activity:** Students will be split into groups and answer questions pertaining to APA Style guidelines. The team with the most points wins!
- **Writing Process:** Drafting

## Week 3

### **September 16th**

- **Literacy Narrative - ROUGH DRAFT due**
- **Freewrite/Discussion:** How was your experience writing this essay? How do you feel about your first draft? Explain. Why do you think (or not) peer review is important? What were your previous experiences with peer review like (if any)? What do you expect to get out of these peer reviews?
  - Class will work together to create a list of helpful and non-helpful feedback
- **Activity:** Students will peer review a partner's draft, commenting on their drafts, answering questions, discussing with one another, and "grading" each other's essay using the rubric

### **September 18th**

- **Discussion:** Revision
  - <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/revising-drafts/#:~:text=W hat%20does%20it%20mean%20to,your%20presentation%2C%20reviving%20stale%20prose>

- **Lecture:** Genre
  - **Activity:** Choose a [genre](#) and write rules for composing. Students will share aloud their findings with the class

## Week 4

### September 23rd

- **Literacy Narrative - FINAL DRAFT due**
- **Lecture:** Reading/Thinking Critically
  - <https://wac.colostate.edu/repository/writing/guides/guide/index.cfm?guideid=31#:~:text=Once%20you%20have%20summarized%20the,good%20way%20to%20read%20critically.>
- **Activity:** Do a close reading of an assigned academic text chosen by your instructor: Snell, D. & Gekara, V. (2022) Re-examining technology's destruction of blue-collar work. *New Technology, Work and Employment*, 1–19.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ntwe.12259>

### September 25th

- **Writing process:** Developing a strong, clear and focused thesis statement
  - <https://opentextbc.ca/writingforsuccess/chapter/chapter-5-putting-the-pieces-together-with-a-thesis-statement/>
- **Writing Process:** Development and support, topic sentences:
  - <http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/paragraphs.htm>
- **Transitions:** <http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/transitions.htm>

## Week 5

### September 30th

- **Assignment:** Introduce Argument (Position) Essay
  - Review assignment expectations carefully
  - Choose 1 set of paired readings on Canvas (A, B, C, D...) for the argument (position) essay.
- In-class prewriting activities for organization of argument (position) essay
  - Reporting verbs:  
[https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/sites/default/files/Reporting\\_verbs\\_2014\\_Accessible.pdf](https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/sites/default/files/Reporting_verbs_2014_Accessible.pdf)
- **Speaking:** Discussion or debates in class, taking positions on a reading

### October 2nd - WELLNESS DAY

- NO CLASS

## Week 6

### October 7th

- **Argument (Position) Essay - ROUGH DRAFT due**

- **Activity:** Students will peer review a partner's draft, commenting on their drafts, answering questions, discussing with one another, and "grading" each other's essay using the rubric
- **Writing Process:** Revision

### October 9th

- **Lecture:** Research and information literacy
  - Finding and evaluating sources
    - <https://library.njit.edu>
    - EBSCO; Proquest; Ebooks; Science Direct; JStor; Open Access Sources; Google; Google Scholar
  - APA Citation Style
    - <https://apastyle.apa.org/>
  - NJIT Ebook: Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2022). *A pocket style manual, apa version*. Bedford/Saint Martin's.

### Week 7

#### October 14th

- **Writing: Rhetorical analysis** introduced and assignment expectations carefully reviewed
- **Activity:** Analyze rhetorical strategies in various readings chosen by your instructor; readings from the argument position essay are one option.
  - Sample article for rhetorical analysis in-class writing:  
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/to-rake-or-not-to-rake-expert-tips-for-eco-friendly-autumnal-lawn-care>

#### October 16th

- **Reading:** Rhetorical analysis essay structure, terms and appeals
- Suggestions:  
<https://success.uark.edu/get-help/student-resources/rhetorical-analysis.php>
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:6086be0a-b9a5-31ca-ac1c-7094b61ace6b>

### Week 8

#### October 21st

- **Argument (Position) Essay - FINAL DRAFT due**

#### October 23rd

- **Writing: In-class Rhetorical Analysis Essay**
  - Read a new text and write a 2-3 page rhetorical analysis in one 80-minute class period

### Week 9

**October 28th**

- **Assignment:** Introduce Research Argument Essay
  - Review assignment expectations carefully
- **Reading/Research:** Read and sort through articles to create a coherent research argument.

**October 30th**

- Elements of Academic Argument, Harvard:  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fb9ee585-1e12-31ea-a9e7-61da46ed575f>
- **Review:** APA Citation Style
- **Activity:** Citatiolympics - Students will be split into groups and answer questions pertaining to APA Style guidelines. The team with the most points wins!

**Week 10****November 4th**

- **Research:** Refining list of sources, making connections
- Prewriting and drafting
- Information literacy

**November 6th**

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**Week 11****November 11th**

- **Research Argument Essay - ROUGH DRAFT due**
- **Activity:** Students will peer review a partner's draft, commenting on their drafts, answering questions, discussing with one another, and "grading" each other's essay using the rubric
- **Writing Process:** Revision

**November 13th**

- **Review:** Development and transitions ( from literacy narrative week)
- **Writing Process:** Revision

**Week 12****November 18th**

- **Writing process:** Grammar, mechanics, punctuation; citation
- Editing and proofreading:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/graduate\\_writing/graduate\\_writing\\_topics/graduate\\_writing\\_topics\\_editing\\_proofreading\\_new.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/graduate_writing/graduate_writing_topics/graduate_writing_topics_editing_proofreading_new.html)
- **Activity:** Bad presentation

**November 20th**

- **Activity:** Prepare oral presentation and Powerpoint for assigned class period.

**Week 13**

**November 25th - THURSDAY SCHEDULE**

- **Research Argument Essay - FINAL DRAFT due**
- **Discussion Board:** Reflection on research writing process

**November 27th - THANKSGIVING**

- NO CLASS

**Week 14**

**December 2nd**

- Oral presentations on research argument essay

**December 4th**

- Oral presentations on research argument essay

**Week 15**

**December 9th**

- Oral presentations on research argument essay

**December 11th - LAST DAY OF CLASS**

- Oral presentations on research argument essay



**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