

Academic Writing Course Outline

Course Description

In this course, students will learn how to write a research paper. They will expand their academic vocabulary and develop writing and critical thinking skills in order to improve writing fluency. Focus areas will include topic selection, methods of gathering and evaluating sources, note taking, organization and style, conventions of academic writing including the use of citations. Students must submit all preparatory work and participate in ongoing conferences with the instructor.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- choose an appropriate topic and write note cards
- write an effective thesis statement
- choose effective supporting details which best support the thesis statement
- write and use a sentence outline to clarify and organize ideas, identify weaknesses in argument and stay focused on the topic
- use transitional expressions to establish logical connections between sentences, paragraphs and the thesis statement
- demonstrate and apply knowledge of basic essay structure, including how to write an effective introduction, body and conclusion
- write and revise a rough draft
- write a research paper and bibliography which demonstrates an understanding of the research paper process
- demonstrate knowledge of the conventions of the English language by using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization
- use citations and incorporate short quotations from outside sources in the research paper

Course Content

- What is a research paper?
- Appropriate topics and sources
- Note taking and note cards
- Writing and revising a thesis sentence
- Organization - writing and revising an outline
- How to write an effective introduction and conclusion
- Writing and revising the rough draft
- Use of citations
- Plagiarism
- How to write a bibliography
- Typing and formatting rules

Grading Criteria

Assignments - 30%

(Topic selection, Resources, Note cards, Outline)

Rough draft - 30%

(Writing assignments - Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Bibliography)

Final paper - 40%

Required Course Materials

Textbook: Basic Steps to Writing Research Papers
by David E. Kluge and Matthew A. Taylor