

English 101: College Composition
Three Rivers Community Technical College
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Course Description (from the college catalog)

"College Composition engages students in critical observation, reading, and writing. The course prepares the student for the exposition, analysis, and argument required in college writing, and for meeting the conventions of college English. Writing assignments require that students develop their own points of view and demonstrate understanding of complex issues and ideas. Methods for research, including use of the library, appropriate documentation, and incorporation of sources in original papers will be taught through assigned writings."

Goals

At the end of this course you should be able to:

- read and understand essays which offer differing points of view on a topic
- compare or contrast various perspectives on a topic
- analyze a particular perspective or argument on a topic and evaluate its relative merits
- develop your own perspective on a topic and state that perspective in a written "thesis"
- support that thesis with specific and detailed evidence from readings, research, and, if appropriate, personal experience and observations
- document information from other sources using MLA parenthetical documentation
- recognize the reader as an intrinsic element in writing and employ strategies that engage the reader
- craft effective sentences and paragraphs
- employ strategies for effective major revision of writing, including attention to organization and paragraph coherence
- employ strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar and usage
- conduct basic library research, including accessing basic print media and electronic data bases
- collaborate with others in analyzing writing, developing points of view, and conducting research

Texts

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003...including her helpful electronic exercises at www.dianahacker.com/writersref and www.dianahacker.com/resdoc. (We will refer to her book as HACKER.)

Cooper, Charles R., and Susan Peck MacDonald. *Writing the World*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000. (We'll call this book WTW.)

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an important part of this course. To miss more than one class is to significantly decrease your chances of benefiting from the course. Attendance records will be kept, and may affect your final grade. In addition, a quiz will be given each night, and *these quizzes may not be made up by absentees*. So... if at all possible, be here for each class. (Of course, I realize that things beyond our control do occasionally arise, and therefore I want to assure you that missing *one* class for an emergency will not affect your final grade. Missing more than one might.)

Office Hours

My "office" will be the teacher's desk in our classroom. My office hours will be the 30 minutes before and after each class. Please feel free to come up to the desk for a conference. *No appointment is necessary*. If I appear to be working at the desk, don't hesitate to interrupt me. At that time I am there to be of service to you.

Course Requirements

The following are the required tasks for the course:

1. 11-sentence paragraphs. These paragraphs should be carefully written according to the guidelines for 11-sentence paragraphs distributed in class, *and should not be on any of the assigned topics for required essays*. They should be copied to an overhead transparency and brought to class on your group's assigned night, along with one hard copy. **(If you wish, you may delete your name from the transparency.)**

Weight, cumulative: 10%

2. Formal papers.

A. Mid-length papers

These will be based on assigned topics from WTW. The specific assignments are in the "Essay Specifications" section of the syllabus, below (p.3). They should be written according to the guidelines given in HACKER C1-C6. *The body paragraphs should be written in the 11-sentence format.*

Weight, each: 25 %

B. Research paper. The assignment is given in the "Assignment Specifications" section of this syllabus, below (p.4) It should be written according

to the guidelines given in HACKER R1-R4, and MLA 1-5. *The body paragraphs should be written in the 11-sentence format.*

Weight: 30%

3. Grammar and vocabulary study and quizzes.

Each night we will study a section in HACKER covering technical topics helpful to a writer. We will also discuss a handful of interesting new words that could be useful. During the following class, there will be a quiz on the grammar topics and the new words. *These quizzes cannot be made up by absentees.*

Weight, cumulative: 10%

Assignment Specifications

*NOTE: ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE IN FONT SIZE 14, DOUBLE SPACED.

Paper #1

For your specific assignment, read "The Writing Assignment," in WTW, 78-79

First draft due date: Wednesday, September 13

Final draft due date: Monday, September 18

Guidelines: HACKER C1-C6

Special requirements:

- 1) Three *informal* in-text citations, one each from three different essays in WTW, Ch 2. (For help with informal citations, see WTW, p. 90-91);
- 2) total of five paragraphs
- 3) three body paragraphs written in 11-sentence format
- 4) introductory and concluding paragraphs written in 4-sentence format

Note: This paper is based on the readings in WTW, Ch. 2. Therefore, it would be important to read as much of the chapter as possible, even though specific reading assignments will not be given. There will be no test given on the chapter, so the extent of your reading is up to you.

Paper #2

For your specific assignment, see "The Writing Assignment," WTW, 418-419

First draft due date: Wednesday, September 27

Final draft due date: Monday, October 2

Guidelines: HACKER C1-C6

Special requirements:

- 1) Three *informal* in-text citations, one each from three different essays in WTW, Ch. 5. (For help with informal citations, see WTW, p. 90-91);
- 2) total of five paragraphs
- 3) three body paragraphs written in 11-sentence format
- 4) introductory and concluding paragraphs written in 4-sentence format

Note: This paper is based on the readings in WTW, Ch. 5. Therefore, it would be important to read as much of the chapter as possible, even though specific reading homework assignments will not be

given. There will be no test given on the chapter, so the extent of your reading is up to you.

Research paper

This is your assignment: *Pose a question you would like to explore, read widely in search of possible answers, interpret what you read, draw reasoned conclusions, and support those conclusions in a research essay that includes valid and well-documented evidence* (see Hacker 295, top).

Thesis and outline due Monday, October 2

Final draft due date: Monday, October 16

Guidelines: **HACKER R1-4**, MLA 1-5; WTW, 672-673

Special requirements:

- 1) Eight *formal* in-text citations, including four with direct quotes, plus a "Works Consulted" page listing at least six sources, **at least three of which should be other than WTW**. See WTW, p. 91 and Appendix 2, for more on formal citations. We will be using the Modern Language Association (MLA) style for documenting sources. See WTW, 727 and Hacker, MLA 1-5;
- 2) total of 6 paragraphs
- 3) 4 body paragraphs written in the 11-sentence format.
- 4) introductory and concluding paragraphs written in 4-sentence format

Class Schedule and Assignments

Monday, August 28

Introduction to the course. Go over syllabus. Survey textbooks. Survey readings from WTW, Ch. 2. Discuss 11-sentence format for writing paragraphs. Discuss specifications for formal paper #1 (WTW, 78-95). Grammar topic for first quiz: HACKER G5. New words.

Homework: Students in Group A write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Use my paragraph as a model. (Also, study Hacker C4) Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz.

Wednesday, August 30

Discussion of homework paragraphs. Survey readings from WTW, Ch. 2. Discuss HACKER C4 on writing paragraphs. Discuss 11-sentence format for writing paragraphs. Discuss HACKER C1-C5 on composing and revising papers. Discuss specifications for formal paper #1 (WTW, 78-95). Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER G6. New words.

Homework: Students in Group B write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Use my paragraph as a model. (Also, study Hacker C4.) Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz. Read essays in WTW, Chapter 2, as preparation for Essay #1.

Monday, September 4

LABOR DAY OBSERVED – NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 6

Discussion of homework paragraphs. Survey readings from WTW, Ch. 2. Discuss HACKER C4 on writing paragraphs. Discuss 11-sentence format for writing paragraphs. Discuss HACKER C1-C5 on composing and revising papers. Discuss specifications for formal paper #1 (WTW, 78-95). Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER P1. New words.

Homework: Students in Group A write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz. Read essays in WTW, Chapter 2, as preparation for Essay #1.

Monday, September 11

Discussion of homework paragraphs. Survey readings from WTW, Ch. 2. Discuss HACKER C4 on writing paragraphs. Discuss 11-sentence format for writing paragraphs. Discuss HACKER C1-C5 on composing and revising papers. Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER P5. Discuss specifications for formal essay #1 (WTW, 78-95). New words.

Homework: Study for quiz. Students in Group B write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. **Write first draft of Paper #1.**

Wednesday, September 13

Discussion of homework paragraphs. **Peer editing of Paper #1.** Survey readings from WTW, Ch. 5. Discuss HACKER C4 on writing paragraphs. Discuss HACKER C1-C5 on composing and revising papers. Quiz. Go over specifications for research paper. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER S1. Discuss specifications for formal paper #2 (WTW, 418-443). New words.

Homework: Complete final draft of Paper #1. Study for grammar quiz.

Monday, September 18

Turn in final draft of Paper #1. Discussion of homework paragraphs. Readings from WTW, Ch. 5. Discuss HACKER C4 on writing paragraphs. Discuss HACKER C2 on drafting a paper. Quiz. Discuss specifications for formal paper #2 (WTW, 418-443). Go over specifications for research paper. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER S4. New words.

Homework: Students in Group A write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz.

Wednesday, September 20

Discussion of homework paragraphs. Discuss specifications for formal paper #2. Readings from WTW, Ch. 5. Go over specifications for research paper. Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER S-7. New words.

Homework: Students in Group B write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz.

Monday, September 25

Discussion of homework paragraphs. Review and discuss specifications for formal paper #2. Discuss specifications for research paper. Survey readings from WTW, Ch. 5. Discuss HACKER C4-d, on adjusting paragraph length. Review HACKER C1-2, on planning and drafting an essay. Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER W2. New words.

Homework: Complete first draft of Paper #2. Students in Group A write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz.

Wednesday, September 27

Peer editing of first draft of Paper #2. Discussion of homework paragraphs. Discuss specifications for research paper. Discuss HACKER C1-C5, on composing and revising papers. Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER W3. New words.

Homework: Complete final draft of Paper #2. Study for quiz. Students in Group B write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. **Complete first draft of thesis and outline for research paper.**

Monday, October 2

Turn in final draft of Paper #2. Turn in thesis and outline for research paper. Discussion of homework paragraphs. Readings from WTW, Ch. 5. Discuss HACKER C4 on writing paragraphs. Discuss specifications for research report. Quiz. Grammar topic for next quiz: HACKER W4. New words.

Homework: Students in Group A write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Copy paragraph to transparency. Study for quiz. Work on research essay.

none
Wednesday, October 3

Meet in library to work on research papers.

Monday, October 9

COLUMBUS DAY...NO CLASS

Wednesday, October 11

Discussion of homework paragraphs. Go over specifications for research paper. Go over HACKER, R1-R4, on researching. Go over HACKER, MLA 1-5, on writing MLA reports. Quiz. Grammar topic for quiz: HACKER M 1, 3-4. New words.

Homework: Students in Group B write an 11-sentence paragraph on a topic of your choice. Study for final quiz. **Write final draft of research paper.**

Monday, October 16

FINAL CLASS. Quiz. **Turn in research paper.**

Wed Oct 16 ?



College Withdrawal Policy

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once a class has met should complete the withdrawal form in the registrar's office, or send a written request to withdraw from the course. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks (or until completion of two-thirds of a summer session or module course) without being in good standing or obtaining prior approval of the instructor. After that period, a student must request written permission from the instructor (using the official withdrawal form) to withdraw from the class, and must have maintained a C- average. Withdrawals are recorded with a 'W' grade on the student's permanent record, and *carry no penalty*. Students who merely stop attending but fail to formally withdraw are assigned 'NC' grades, signifying "No Credit."

Disabilities and Learning Differences

If you have a hidden or visible disability or learning difference which may require classroom modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please register with the Disabled Student Services office, at 886-1931, Ext. 2931.