



Writing 1020G (672)
Winter 2026

Writing: Introduction to University Essay Writing

Course Information:

Calendar Description: A practical introduction to the basics of successful academic writing, designed for first-year students in all disciplines. Topics will range from grammar, sentence structure, and paragraphing to the principles of scholarly argument and research.

Prerequisite(s):

Anti-requisite(s): Writing 0002F/G, Writing 1002F/G, Writing 1021F/G, Writing 1022F/G, Writing 2101F/G.

Extra Information: 3 lecture/tutorial hours. [This course will not serve as a prerequisite for any area of concentration.]

Course Weight:0.50

Breadth: Category B

Subject Code: Writing

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary pre-requisites.



Professor: Mitchell Rowat

Office: n/a

Email: mrowat@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Mondays, 7pm – 9pm, virtual

Ext: n/a

Mode of Instruction: Online Asynchronous Course

westernu.brightspace.com

Class Times and Location(s):

Winter 2026 – Online Asynchronous Course

Course Description:

A practical introduction to the basics of successful academic writing, designed for first-year students in all disciplines. Topics will range from grammar, sentence structure, and paragraphing to the principles of scholarly argument and research. Three lecture hours, half course.

Prerequisite(s):

none

Antirequisite(s):

Antirequisites	Writing 0002F/G; 1002F/G; 1021F/G; 1022F/G; 2101F/G
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King's University College
at Western University
Department of English, French, and Writing

Winter 2026

Writing 1020G 672

Writing 1020F: Introduction to University Essay Writing

Online Asynchronous Course: westernu.brightspace.com

Lecturer, Mitchell Rowat
Course Website: westernu.brightspace.com
E-mail: mrowat@uwo.ca

Office: by Zoom
Office Hours: Mondays, 7pm-9pm, virtual

Course Description

A practical introduction to the basics of successful academic writing, designed for first-year students in all disciplines. Topics will range from grammar, sentence structure, and paragraphing to the principles of scholarly argument and research. Three lecture hours, half course.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete Writing 1020F/G will understand:

- the rudiments of rhetorical theory and be able to perform a rhetorical analysis
- the formal academic essay as a genre, its form and requirements, in the context of academic writing
- how to analyse and to write effective paragraphs, with attention to unity, coherence, and development
- how to find, judge, employ and properly document sources, through the skills of quotation, paraphrase and summary
- argument, persuasive strategies, and logical fallacies
- the rudiments of diction, syntax, and style
- how to edit, revise and to achieve grammatical correctness and stylistic clarity and emphasis

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Prerequisites	---
Antirequisites	Writing 0002F/G; 1002F/G; 1021F/G; 1022F/G; 2101F/G

Required Texts

1. Roe, Steven C. and Pamela H. den Ouden. *Academic Writing: The Complete Guide*. 3rd edition. Canadian Scholars, 2018.

Choose either the electronic edition (\$69.00; ISBN 9781773380414; SKU: CEB_EBOOKID=9675052) or the hardcopy edition (\$82.60; SKU 9781773380407), which are both available through the Western bookstore online. Students are welcome to purchase second-hand editions of this textbook.

Assignments

Introductory Message	due	January 9, 10pm	5%
Rhetorical Analysis	due	January 30, 5pm	10%
Review Essay	due	February 23, 5pm	10%

Research Paper

- Research Proposal	due	March 9, 5pm	10%
- Essay Draft*	due	March 27, 5pm ----	
- Peer Review Letter	due	April 1, 5pm	10%
- Final Essay	due	April 4, 10pm	20%
- Quizzes, Discussions			5%
- Final Exam**			30%

*Note that no marks will be given for the draft; however, completing the draft is a requirement to participate in the peer review process, which will culminate in a peer review letter, worth 10%.

****Students are responsible for consulting the university's exam schedule, noting the date, time, and location (if applicable) and attending. Students who fail to appear for the exam due to inattention will not be accommodated.**

Academic Consideration

Academic consideration for the final draft, worth 20% of the course grade, requires submission of formal supporting documentation.

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy: https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. **In this course, use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation.** Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using ProctorTrack remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Registration

A student must be officially registered in the course in order to attend class. Students not officially registered will not be allowed to attend.

Drop Date for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

March 30, 2025 Fall term Drop Date, half courses

The Write Place

Please consider visiting King's writing centre, The Write Place, where undergraduate peers offer one-on-one writing counselling. Student tutors can help you to think through the writing process, help with drafting strategies, and offer advice about revision. Please feel free to visit their web page: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/the-write-place/>

Assignment Format

All pieces of writing are to be typed, double-spaced, and follow a recognized scholarly formatting system. Similarly, when using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow scholarly standards for documentation. If essays are to be uploaded to the Assignments tab in Brightspace, they must be attached as a copy and not just linked to the "cloud."

Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due on the date and on the time specified in the assignment instructions. **No late assignments will be accepted.** However, if you have compassionate or medical grounds for late submission, please see university policies in the appendix. No assignment will be accepted after the last day of classes unless you have arranged this with me via an academic counsellor.

Intellectual Property

Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property, and it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.

Plagiarism Policy

"Plagiarism is almost always seen as a shameful act, and plagiarists are usually regarded with pity and scorn. They are pitied because they have demonstrated their inability to develop and express their own thoughts. They are scorned because of their dishonesty and their willingness to deceive others for personal gain."

- Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that compromises learning and undermines the intellectual life of the university. Therefore, students must ensure that they write their essays and assignments in their own words. In addition, whenever students take an idea or a passage from a secondary source, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks where required and parenthetical citations. Students who receive help from others to complete course assignments or whose work fails to reference sources will be considered to have plagiarized. Plagiarism is a major academic offence and may result in a '0' for an assignment or in the course. Please refer to Scholastic Discipline under the Senate Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities. Remember, however, that seeking guidance from the university's writing centre, The Write Place, is not considered an academic offence.

Electronic Devices in Writing Courses

Writing Program policy will permit limited use of laptops; however, for in-class courses, some tasks will involve writing by hand.

Dealing with Conflict

Students encountering any issues with course assignments or with the course in general—in short, with any issue related to the course—should make an appointment to speak to their professor. Protocol demands that students request a meeting with their professor *first* in order to discuss any issues related to the course before seeking further redress.

E-mail

Students must provide their official UWO e-mail address to the instructor at the beginning of the course and should check their e-mail regularly for messages pertinent to the course and for handouts. **Messages sent from e-mail providers such as yahoo, gmail or hotmail will not be answered**, so please use the UWO account for messages to your instructor. In addition, please ensure that your e-mails conform to the rudimentary standards of business discourse within the university: e-mails should be clear, correct, concise and should maintain a professional decorum. Rude or harassing e-mails will not be tolerated. Emails from students requesting information readily available on the course outline will not be answered.

Grades

Final grades are typically available within two weeks following the final exam. University regulations require that final grades be released only by Enrolment Services. To view your final marks online, please visit the following website, the "Student Center": <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS, REQUIRED READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Jan 5	The Writing Process Finding a Topic	<i>AW</i> Ch. 2, pp. 11-30;	Introduction Due (5%)
Week 2 Jan 12	The Rhetorical Situation	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 1, pp. 1-10	Quiz 1
Week 3 Jan 19	Rhetorical Situation (cont'd); Style – Diction	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 4, pp. 98-108	Discussion 1
Week 4 Jan 26	Paragraphing Introductions Style – Parallelism	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 5 pp. 109-162	Rhetorical Analysis Due (10%) Quiz 2
Week 5 Feb 2	Paragraphing (cont'd) Core Paragraphs	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 6, pp. 179-209	Discussion 2
Week 6 Feb 9	Research Proposals Style – Coordination and Subordination	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 4, pp. 70-97	
WINTER READING WEEK			
Week 7 Feb 23	Argument / Persuasion / Criticism Fallacies; Sentence Faults		Review Essay Due (10%)
Week 8 March 2	Research I The Research Notebook, Summary, Paraphrase	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 3, pp. 41-67	Quiz 3
Week 9 March 9	Research II Evaluating Sources Documentation	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 6, 209-239	Research Proposal Due (10%)
Week 10 March 16	Scholarly Conclusions Punctuation	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 7, pp. 242-264	
Week 11 March 23	Revising and Proofreading Concision Modification	<i>AW</i> , Ch. 9, pp. 291-303	Essay Draft Due
Week 12 March 30	Pronouns Subject-Verb Agreement		Peer Review Letter Due (10%); Final Paper Due (20%)
Week 13 April 6	Exam Preparation		

Writing Program General Grading Rubric

Grade Ranges

Below 50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100
<p>Grades in this range identify assignments with problems sufficiently severe and/or pervasive that they significantly compromise the document's ability to communicate.</p> <p>Grades in this range generally indicate ONE or more of the following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plagiarism 2. Failure to follow the assigned topic 3. Severe systematic problems. 	<p>Grades in this range identify assignments that, while generally acceptable, have AT LEAST ONE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - significant global deficiency (mistaken audience, inconsistency in purpose) - several major problems (see list below) - numerous minor problems 	<p>Grades in this range tend to be fairly common in writing courses.</p> <p>These grades identify a generally good performance on the criteria listed below with minor problems of various kinds throughout the assignment or in more than one category.</p>	<p>These grades may also be given to assignments that contain some minor mistakes, or even a very small number of more significant ones, provided that other outstanding attributes compensate for them.</p>	<p>More common than 90+ but still relatively rare, assignments in this range demonstrate the same features as those in the upper range (clear purpose; coherent and cohesive writing, varied prose style), but to a slightly lesser degree or with a few minor problems.</p>	<p>Grades in this range are very rare, and identify assignments that show considerable originality and unusual skill in addressing an audience, accomplishing a purpose, using an appropriate style, choosing an appropriate document design or format, and proofreading thoroughly.</p>

Please note that these descriptions are guidelines only, and do not cover all situations.

Evaluation Criteria:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description of a major problem in this category</u>
Purpose:	- an unclear, vague, weak, or otherwise problematic thesis statement
Audience:	- inappropriate linguistic register; incorrect assumptions about background knowledge of reader
Coherence:	- problems with paragraph length / structure
Cohesion:	- lack of connection between ideas, paragraphs
Style:	- lack of sentence variety, awkwardness, faulty sentence structure
Grammar:	- sentence boundary errors: fused sentences, comma splices, sentence fragments
Proofreading:	- typos, misspellings, and so on common enough to significantly slow down the reader
Format:	- poor document design for technical writing assignments; incorrect essay format
Citation:	- problems with proper citation format, scholarly procedure

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

Please note that Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

For further information, please see: https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see [https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html](https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports_-_TurnItIn.html).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to

reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.