

University of Southern California

SummerTIME Program: A Preparation for College Writing and Research

Writing Syllabus

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, the student should be able to accomplish the following primary objectives:

1. Diagnose common grammatical errors;
2. Identify and explain the modes of persuasion, as well as write effectively in a persuasive manner;
3. Conduct research using online databases and university resources;
4. Employ critical thinking skills through the evaluation of primary and secondary sources;
5. Construct effective thesis statements, introductory paragraphs, and conclusions;
6. Develop the organizational skills necessary to synthesize information and produce a multi-stage written and oral report;
7. Gain experience in presenting their work in front of peers;
8. Appreciate the importance of revision as a fundamental component of the writing process.

Schedule

<< Seminars and Initial Assignments >>

June 20

- **Orientation**
- **Introduction:**
 - Review of the syllabus
 - Course requirements and review of assignments
 - Perspectives on writing

June 21: Fundamentals of Grammar and Rhetorical Modes

Morning Session

- **Basic Grammar:**
 - Subject-Verb agreement
 - Common grammatical errors
- **Punctuation:**
 - Commas and semi-colons
 - Hyphens and dashes
 - Apostrophes
 - Quotation Marks
 - Ellipsis

Noon Session

- **Advanced Grammar:**
 - Parallel structure and mixed constructions
 - Confused words (Homonyms and Non-homonyms)
- **Writing Style and the Modes of Persuasion:**
 - Emotions (Pathos), Credibility (Ethos), and Logic (Logos)
- **Speech Analysis:**
 - Analyze commencement speeches by Fareed Zakaria and Conan O'Brien
- **Assignment: Locate instances in which authors establish credibility, use logic, or appeal to the reader's emotions (Due June 22)**

June 22: Presentation Style and Rhetorical Modes

Morning Session

- **Review of Speech Analysis from Commencement Speeches**
- **In-Class Viewing:**
Videos of commencement speeches
- **Discussion:**
Effective oral presentation techniques

Noon Session

- **Modifiers:**
Adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and interjections
- **Concise Writing:**
Intensifiers, determiners, and expletive constructions
- **Effective Sentence Construction:**
Conjunctions
Independent and dependent clauses
Simple, compound, and complex sentences

Assignment: Analyze a piece of writing and suggest improvements (Due June 23)

June 23: Research

Morning Session

- **Introduction to Academic Disciplines:**
Fine arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences
- **Source Evaluation:**
How do I locate the sources of information cited in a book, article, or online resource?
How do I determine whether these sources are accurate or widely respected?
Background, purpose, style, presentation, and selection of evidence
- **Review of Academic Databases:**
Academic Search Premier, ARTstor, EBSCO, Google Scholar, HighWire, JSTOR, Oxford Reference Online, and PubMed

- **Other Online Resources:**
Government websites
Independent institutions

Afternoon Session

- **Writing Style:**
Consideration of audience
Expectations of writing genres
Writing conventions in different disciplines
- **Citation Styles:**
Why do they exist?
What are the common types?
Discussion of APA, Chicago, and MLA styles
- **Source Attribution:**
Quoting, Paraphrasing and Summarizing
- **Assignment: Compile Bibliography / Reference Page for the Social Entrepreneurship Assignment (Due June 24)**

June 24: Paper Development

Morning Session

- **Review of Assignment**
- **Thesis Statements:**
How to locate a thesis statement in a published work
Elements of a thesis statement
Writing a compelling thesis statement
- **Writing Thesis Statements:**
Compose three potential thesis statements in class

Afternoon Session

- **Peer Review of Thesis Statements**
- **Outlining / Organizing Data:**

By intended order in the paper

By chronology

By research topic

- **Assignment: Prepare an Outline of Your Social Entrepreneurship Paper (Due June 27)**

June 27: Outline and Introductory Paragraph

Morning Session

- **Peer Review of Outline**
- **Introductory Paragraph:**
 - Placement of thesis statement
 - Main ideas
 - Maintaining reader interest
 - Examination of introductory paragraphs in sample essays
- **Writing the Introductory Paragraph of the Paper:**
 - Composition of the introductory paragraph, with thesis statement and outline included

Afternoon Session

- **In-Class Writing of Introductory Paragraph**
- **Assignment: Introductory Paragraph Complete (Due June 28)**

June 28: Paper Content

Morning Session

- **Peer Review of Introductory Paragraph**

Afternoon Session

- **Content Paragraphs / Structuring Essays:**
 - Effective placement of content and presentation of evidence
 - Consideration of paragraph length
 - Examination of content paragraphs in sample essays
- **Assignment: First Page of the Paper (Due June 29)**

<< Peer Review Sessions: June 29 to July 8 >>

June 29 to July 1

- **Peer Review**

Students will work individually and in groups to write and revise their papers.

- **Assignment: Minimum of 4 Pages (Due July 5)**

July 5 to July 8

- **Peer Review**

Students will work individually and in groups to write and revise their papers.

- **Assignment 4: Minimum of 8 Pages (Due July 11)**

<< Final Week >>

July 11: Conclusions and Revision

- **Conclusions:**

How to restate your thesis and main ideas in the conclusion (without boring your reader!)

Examination of conclusions from sample essays

How to use elements of the introduction in the conclusion, which leads to...

- **Revision of Introduction and Body Paragraphs:**

Now that content paragraphs are written, does your introduction still make sense?

Does your paper need restructuring?

July 12 and 13: In-Class Presentations

July 14: Final Revisions

- **Research Paper with Budget (Due July 15):**

Complete the final version of your paper

8 to 10 pages in length