

## Guided Self Placement Criteria

You'll be expected to write in many of your Drew courses and in whatever career you select, so it is important to register for the class that will allow you to build on the skills you already have and help you to become an excellent writer. Please use the checklists below to guide your placement decision:

**ENGL 1 (4 credit, one semester sequence) is probably best for you if you check the majority of the following descriptions:**

- I read newspapers and magazines regularly
- In the past year, I have read books for my own enjoyment
- In high school I wrote several essays per year, and I am comfortable writing in a variety of forms, including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and summary
- I feel fairly comfortable planning and organizing an essay (I generally know where to begin, how to form paragraphs, when and how to conclude, and how to develop paragraphs)
- I have written papers that make an argument, and I have learned how to use information to develop a thesis and analysis of that information to help support my claims
- I have used computers for drafting and revising essays, and I generally revise and/or edit a paper before I hand it in to the teacher
- I do not have particular problems with grammar and punctuation, and I am able to use commas, apostrophes, and a variety of sentence lengths and structures
- I consider myself a good reader and writer
- I generally enjoy writing and overall I am able to say what I mean when I write
- If I took the SAT examination, my writing score was above 530

English 1 instructors will assume that you can read material from newspapers, magazines, and academic texts and both summarize them and think analytically about them so that you can incorporate them into a paper. They will expect you to produce a 10-page research paper and four or five 5-7 page papers. If you feel comfortable with these expectations and have checked the majority of these boxes, English 1 is probably the best choice for you. Please read the other two lists BEFORE registering.

**ENGL 1-A/ENGL 1 (6 credit, 2 semester sequence) is probably best for you if you check the majority of the following descriptions:**

- Generally, I do not read unless I have to do so
- In high school I did not do much writing, and did not write many papers over 3 pages long
- I am not always able to write papers that make an argument, use information to develop a thesis, or use analysis of that information to help support my claims
- I am often unsure how to organize my ideas, and do not feel confident that I know where to begin, how to form paragraphs, when and how to conclude, and how to develop paragraphs
- I've used computers, but not often for writing and revising papers
- I tend not to revise or edit papers before I hand them in to the teacher
- I have had problems with grammar and punctuation, and I am not always sure how to use commas, apostrophes, or other punctuation correctly. My sentences tend to follow the same structure
- I don't consider myself a strong writer

I don't enjoy writing papers

If I took the SAT examination, my writing score was below 530

If the above characteristics seem to describe you and your experience, you would probably benefit from the stretched version of ENGL 1 called ENGL 1-A/ENGL 1, in which you have a year to develop the skills you need to write the extended research paper. In this class you will have more time to explore the expectations that underlie your assignments and develop rhetorical strategies to respond to them. You will also receive more attention from your professor and professional writing tutors to help you develop your writing skills and guide you through your first few college papers. If you do not like writing, you may be reluctant to sign up for one year of composition; however, as you increase your writing skills you will find yourself beginning to enjoy writing more. If you checked the majority of the boxes above, you should register for English 1-A in the Fall semester. The placement confirmation test will allow you to confirm for yourself whether this is the right course for you to take.

**ENGL 2 (2 credit, half semester sequence IN THE SPRING) is probably best for you if you check the majority of the following descriptions:**

I read newspapers and magazines regularly

In the past year, I have read books for my own enjoyment

In high school I wrote several essays per year, and I am comfortable writing in a variety of forms, including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, comparative, and analytical

In high school I wrote at least one extended research paper and my papers often exceeded the suggested length

I have had experience writing papers that make an argument, and I have learned how to use information to develop a thesis and analysis of that information to help support my claims

I feel comfortable planning and organizing an essay (I generally conduct some prewriting, I know how to begin an essay, how to paragraph, when and how to conclude, and how to develop paragraphs)

I have used computers for drafting and revising essays, and I generally revise a paper before I hand it in to the teacher

I do rarely have problems with grammar and punctuation, and I am comfortable explaining how to use commas, apostrophes, and a variety of sentence structures and styles

I consider myself a strong reader and writer

I generally enjoy writing and I am able to say what I mean when I write

I have been involved with my school newspaper, literacy magazine, or other writing group

Other students often ask me to help them with their papers and I enjoy working with others on a piece of writing and getting feedback on my own

If I took the SAT examination, my writing score was above 620

English 2 is probably the right course for you if you have had extensive writing instruction in high school, if you were enrolled in a serious honors program or AP English, if you were on a debate team, if you earned a 3 or a 4 on the AP English language and composition exam, or if you have participated in after school writing of some kind (a newspaper, journal, year book, poetry magazine or local media). English 2 is offered primarily in Spring semesters (there is one section in Fall 2007), so you will be able to discuss this option with your advisor once he or she is more familiar with your writing skills.