

Writing Self-Assessment Guide for Registration in College Writing Classes

You will be expected to write in many of your Drew classes in addition to the two Writing Intensive (WI) courses you select and the Writing in the Major (WM) course or sequence you will take in your major. Writing skills are also essential for success 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. The checklists below is designed to guide your self-placement decision. You will receive more information about the Guided Self-Placement confirmation process by email (to your Drew email address).

Please circle the letter that best describes your response to each question

1 Which option best describes your reading habits?

- (a) I do not read books or newspapers unless I have to do so and I am not a very fast reader
- (b) I read newspapers and magazines regularly (either in print or online) and I read fast enough to keep up with homework
- (c) In the past year, I have read books for my own enjoyment

2 Which option best describes how you feel about reading?

- (a) I do not consider myself a good reader
- (b) I consider myself a reasonably good reader
- (c) I consider myself a strong reader

3 Which option best describes the kind of writing you were assigned in High school?

- (a) In high school I did not do much writing, and did not write many papers over 3 pages long
- (b) In high school I wrote several essays per year, and I am comfortable writing in a variety of forms, including narrative and persuasive
- (c) In high school I wrote many essays, and I am comfortable writing in a variety of forms, including comparative, analytical, persuasive, narrative, descriptive, and summary

4 Which option best describes your experience writing papers

- (a) 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
- (b) I am generally able to write 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
- (c) I have written many papers that make a successful argument, and I feel confident using information to develop a thesis and analysis of that information to help support my claims

5 Which option best describes your experience with research papers?

- (a) I have never written a research paper of more than five pages
- (b) In high school I wrote at least one extended research paper
- (c) In high school I wrote several extended research papers and my papers often exceeded the suggested length

6 Which option best describes your overall ability to write academic papers?

- (a) I am often unsure how to organize my ideas, and I do not feel confident that I know where to begin, how to form paragraphs, when and how to conclude, or how to develop paragraphs
- (b) 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)
- (c) I am 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)

7 Which option best describes your experience using computers as you write papers?

- (a) I've used computers, but not often for writing and revising papers
- (b) I generally write my papers out and then use a computer to type up them up, editing as I type;
- (c) I use a computer to create more than one draft and to revise essays, although I sometimes draft or edit on paper

8 Which option best describes your editing and revision process?

- (a) I tend not to revise or edit papers before I hand them in to the teacher
- (b) I generally revise and/or edit a paper before I hand it in to the teacher
- (c) I revise my own papers before I hand them in, and other students often ask me to help them with their papers

9 Which option best describes your ability to write grammatically and mechanically correct prose?

- (a) 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
- (b) 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
- (c) I rarely make errors in grammar or punctuation, and I am able to explain to others how to use commas, apostrophes, and a variety of sentence structures and styles

10 Do you consider yourself to be a good writer?

- (a) I don't consider myself a good writer
- (b) I consider myself a reasonably good writer
- (c) I consider myself a strong writer

11 Which option best describes your feelings about writing papers?

- (a) I don't enjoy writing papers
- (b) I enjoy writing some academic papers, but I do not enjoy research or research papers
- (c) I generally enjoy writing and I am usually able to say what I mean when I write

12 Which option best describes you're your feelings about creative writing?

- (a) I do not enjoy creative writing
- (b) I prefer creative writing to academic papers
- (c) I enjoy both creative and academic writing

13 Have you been involved in any extra-curricular situations where you had to write (for example, a job, an internship or volunteer program, a church group, a community group, a club or organization, a pen pal program)

- (a) No
- (b) Yes, on an irregular basis
- (c) Yes, I spent a significant amount of my out-of-school hours in extra-curricular writing activities like these

14 In high school, where you involved with your school newspaper, literacy magazine, or other writing group?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes
- (b) Yes, I was an editor or in some other leadership position in one of these

15 If you took the SAT examination, what was your verbal score?

- (a) Below 530
- (b) Between 530 and 620
- (c) Above 620
- (d) I did not take the SAT examination

Total # of each response:

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

If you answered (a) more than any other letter:

If the characteristics under (a) seem to describe you and your reading and writing experience, you would probably benefit from the additional support provided in College Writing Plus (CWRTG 1A) in which you have one-on-one assistance as you develop the advanced literacy skills you need for college success. In this class you will have more time to explore the expectations that underlie your assignments and develop rhetorical and critical thinking strategies to respond to them. You will also work to develop your reading speed and accuracy, your information literacy, and strategies for developing connections between classes. In addition to being capped at fewer students, this class includes a weekly instructor-led peer response group, a small recitation section of three or four students led by the professor teaching the class. In those meetings you will work with your professor on whatever aspect of your writing you believe you most need to strengthen. If you wish to do so, you will also be able to work with professional writing tutors to help you develop your writing skills and guide you through your first few college papers. If you don't like writing, you may be reluctant to sign up for a class that structures more time to work on writing; however, as you increase your writing skills you will find yourself beginning to enjoy writing more. If you checked the majority of the boxes in category (a), you should register for CWRTG 1A in the Fall semester. You may select CWRTG 2A in the Spring if you find that you benefited from the additional attention from your professor, or you can select CWRTG 2 if you feel you are ready for faster-paced class. The placement confirmation test will allow you to confirm for yourself whether this is the right course for you to take.

If you answered (b) more than any other letter:

If the characteristics under (b) seem to describe you and your reading and writing experience, you should probably register for College Writing 1 (CWRTG 1). In this class you will explore the expectations that underlie your assignments and develop rhetorical and critical thinking strategies to respond to them. You will also work to develop the academic literacy skills you need to succeed in college, including information literacy and developing connections between classes. CWRTG 1 instructors will assume that you can read material from newspapers, magazines, and academic texts at a speed and level of comprehension appropriate for a first year college student. They will also expect you to be able to both summarize what you read and think analytically about it so that you can incorporate the ideas of others into a paper in your own words. They will expect you to be comfortable working alone and having your work critiqued by other students in peer response groups. If you feel comfortable with these expectations and have checked the majority of boxes in category (b), College Writing 1 is probably the best choice for you. The placement confirmation test will allow you to confirm for yourself whether this is the right course for you to take.

If you answered (c) more than any other letter:

If the characteristics under (c) seem to describe you and your reading and writing experience, College Writing 1 Accelerated (CWRTG 1B) may be 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 above a 3 on the AP English language and composition exam, or if you have participated in after-school writing of some kind (such as a newspaper, journal, year book, poetry magazine, or local media), you may have the preparation for CWRTG 1B. This course is an accelerated version of CWRTG 1 and CWRTG 2, covering the material from both semesters in one Fall semester course. You will work to develop the academic literacy skills you need to succeed in college, including information and discipline-specific literacy and developing connections between classes. CWRTG 1B instructors will assume that you can read material from academic texts at a speed appropriate for a first year college student and with a high level of comprehension. They will also expect you to be able to both summarize what you read and think analytically about it so that you can incorporate the ideas of scholars into a paper in your own words. Finally, they will expect you to be comfortable working alone and having your work critiqued by other students in peer response groups. If you feel comfortable with these expectations and have checked the majority of the boxes under (c), you may select CWRTG 1B. The placement confirmation test will allow you to confirm for yourself whether this is the right course for you to take.