

Miyazaki International College

Fall 2018

Course Title	Academic Writing 2
Course Designation	N/A
Room	1-523
Instructor	Edward Rummel
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Office Hours	M & W 15:30~17:00

Course Description:		
<p>This second semester writing course for freshmen students aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge base for completing academic writing tasks. It is designed to take students from writing cohesive paragraphs to writing basic 5-paragraph essays. It aims to help students 1) develop writing fluency 2) write clear, focused and well-organized paragraphs and essays. Once students arrive at the point where they are writing essays, they will work on developing a central thesis, organizing an outline, supporting their thesis, and writing effective introductions and conclusions. The concept of plagiarism will be introduced if time permits.</p>		
Course Goals & Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will learn to differentiate between academic and non-academic writing styles. ● Students will develop and use a process approach to writing, learning how to plan out and organize their paragraphs and essays, create topic sentences, write concluding sentences and supporting ideas, and use appropriate vocabulary, grammar and transitional devices in the body paragraphs. ● Students will produce well-structured paragraphs on personal and simple academic topics. ● Students will learn how to edit and revise their own and each other's work. ● By the end of the course, students should be at the beginning stages of writing five-paragraph essays with introductions that express clear thesis statements and sufficient background information to set a context for the essays, body paragraphs which develop and support the thesis statements, and conclusions that summarize the main points. 		
Course Schedule:		
Note that the schedule below is subject to change, and class time will also consist of peer editing of major assignments.		
Lesson	Topic	Content
Lesson 1	Course introduction.	Course outline and objectives, review of syllabus, explanation of tools used in the class, process writing overview.

Lesson 2	Parts of speech- Review. Timed writing 01.	Identify and give examples of parts of speech in a sentence (verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions). Intro to timed-writing.
Lesson 3	Sentence types- review.	Simple sentences Compound sentences Complex sentences
Lesson 4	Sentence types- review. Timed writing 02.	Lesson above continued. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 5	Paragraph: Pre-writing- review. Paragraph structure- review.	Choosing and narrowing a topic, brainstorming methods. Paragraph definition and parts.
Lesson 6	Review continued. Timed-writing 03	Lesson above continued. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 7	Paragraph development - Review	Methods of paragraph support and development, facts& opinions. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 8	Descriptive paragraphs. Timed-writing 04	Organizing and writing descriptive paragraphs using adjectives and prepositions. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 9	Descriptive essays.	Developing a descriptive paragraph into a descriptive essay: format, structure, outlining.
Lesson 10	Descriptive essays. Timed-writing 05. Peer review.	Lesson above continued. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 11	Descriptive essays	Developing a descriptive paragraph into a descriptive essay: Introduction paragraphs
Lesson 12	Narrative paragraphs. Timed-writing 06.	Organizing and writing descriptive paragraphs using adjectives, adverbs and time expressions. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 13	Narrative essays.	Developing a narrative paragraph into a narrative essay: format, structure, outlining.
Lesson 14	Narrative essays. Timed writing 07. Peer review	Lesson above continued. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 15	Narrative essays	Developing a narrative paragraph into a narrative essay: Body paragraphs
Lesson 16	Opinion paragraphs. Timed writing 08.	Distinguishing between fact and opinion, organizing and writing paragraphs expressing opinions and arguments. In-class timed-writing

		practice.
Lesson 17	Opinion paragraphs.	Developing an argumentative paragraph into an argumentative essay: format, structure, outlining.
Lesson 18	Opinion paragraphs. Timed-writing 09.	Developing an argumentative paragraph into an argumentative essay: Conclusion paragraphs. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 19	Compare / contrast paragraphs.	Writing about advantages and disadvantages of a topic
Lesson 20	Compare / contrast paragraphs. Timed writing 10. Peer review.	Lesson above continued. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 21	Compare / contrast essays.	Developing a compare/ contrast paragraph into an essay: format, structure, outlining.
Lesson 22	Compare / contrast essays. Timed-writing 11.	Developing a compare/ contrast paragraph into an essay: 5-paragraph essay. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 23	Compare / contrast essays. Peer review.	Lesson above continued.
Lesson 24	Problem / solution paragraphs. Timed-writing 12.	Using conditionals to write about problem / solution paragraphs. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 25	Problem / solution essays.	Developing a problem/ solution paragraph into an essay: format, structure, outlining.
Lesson 26	Problem / solution essays. Timed-writing 13.	Developing a problem/ solution paragraph into an essay: 5- paragraph essay. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 27	Unity and coherence.	Editing an essay for unity
Lesson 28	Unity and coherence. Timed-writing 14.	Creating coherence through cohesive devices - connectors. In-class timed-writing practice.
Lesson 29	Unity and coherence.	Cohesive devices – pronoun reference, and repetition of key nouns or ideas
Lesson 30	Exam Review. Timed-writing 15.	Preparation for the final writing exam. In-class timed-writing practice.
Week	Final Exam	Preparation for the final writing exam. In-class timed-writing practice.

Required Materials:

- Writing Journal (simple notebook)
- The MIC Writing Handbook

- Japanese-English, English-Japanese dictionary (if you have a smartphone, download the EIJIRO app; also try <http://www.alc.ac.jp>)
- A4 –size folder, writing paper, pens, pencils
- Handouts will be provided as necessary.

Course Policies:

Attendance

You will not get any points for attendance because it is expected that you will attend 100% of classes. However, if you miss a class, please make sure to contact the teacher. Five or more unexcused absences lead to automatic fail!

Preparation and Review Time

- Students are expected to spend two hours preparing, reviewing, and completing coursework for every hour spent in class. This means you should expect to spend six hours each week outside of class time on this course.
- Remember that if you have brainstormed ideas, and organized them into a detailed outline, the actual writing part should not take so long - it's the planning part that takes time.
- "I was absent" is not an excuse for not completing assignments. If you miss a class, be sure to talk with your classmates first to find out what you have missed. Contact the teacher only after trying to consult with your classmates.
- If you do not understand anything at any time, it is your responsibility to ask questions. If you do not ask questions, the teacher will assume you understand everything.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism (cheating) is not tolerated! The following are common examples of plagiarism:

- Getting other students to write your assignment or essay for you. (Getting another student to check your work and give advice is OK.)
- Copying language from a book, newspaper, journal or website without using quotation marks and citing (Citing means giving credit to your sources; telling the reader where you found the information.)
- Paraphrasing (changing to your own words) without citing.

You will likely learn more about citations in this and other classes, but know that if you plagiarize, you will fail the assignment, so do not cheat!

Assignment Submission

- All work you submit to the teacher must be printed from a computer, unless stated otherwise. Keep backups!
- Be sure to write your full name in English, the date, a title, and the page number and exercise of the assignment if appropriate. Failure to do so will affect your grade.
- Late assignments (drafts to the teacher) will result in a deduction of up

to minus 50%, so please submit your writing on time.

Grades and Grading:

Participation, Homework, Timed-writing – 10%

Participation

Participation refers to being prepared and being active in class. Participation also includes your journal activity, as well as your timeliness in submitting final work. If you are absent, you cannot get participation credit for that class.

Homework

You will have writing assignments after almost every class. Sometimes these assignments will be peer-edited before submitting to the teacher. These assignments may or may not be edited by the teacher, but when they are, you are expected to submit a final copy. From time to time there may also be quizzes, which are part of your homework grade.

Timed writing exercises

To improve your fluency, you will take six 10-minute writing tests on which you will be graded based on the word count.

Journal, Current Event activity – 20%

Your journal will include all of your notes from the writing class as well as required weekly journal entries on a subject specified by the teacher or a current event. These will be collected at random several times over the semester to check that you are writing regularly, but your entries will be neither graded nor edited. The purpose of the journal is for you to gain fluency in writing (write as much as possible in English).

Major Writing Assignments – 50%

There will be several more important writing assignments in the semester. Most of these assignments will be peer-edited before submitting to the teacher. You will receive a grade for each of these assignments based on the paper copy you initially submit to the teacher. The teacher will also edit these assignments, and you are expected to submit a final copy. Your final major writing assignment will be an in-class timed essay, in which no dictionaries or textbooks are permitted, and you will be expected to incorporate the material you have learned in the course.

Final Exam – 20%

The final exam will take place during exam week. Information on the content of the exam will be given in class.

Note:

It is your responsibility to seek help if you need it. Please visit me during my office hours if you need study advice. It is appreciated if you could make an appointment to see me via email or in class.