



# Oregon State University Writing Intensive Curriculum

## College of Agriculture ~ Writing Profile

*College of Agriculture WIC classes require an average of 8,000 words (32 pages) of writing per student, including drafts, final papers, and informal assignments. Requirements for individual courses range from 5,000 to 16,000 words.*

### Informal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Directed free writes and free writes to generate class discussion
- ◆ Daily responses to homework or reading  
“Provide a summary of a reading assignment from the text that is not covered in lecture, report of a field trip or lab tour, or summarize difficult lecture material.”(CSS315)
- ◆ Micro themes  
“Respond to a question or comment on a concept, video or other material presented in class. They write their responses on a 3“x4“card during a 5-minute period in class.”(FW497)
- ◆ Rhetorical précis of course readings  
“In the summaries, they are attacking the writing process one sentence at a time.” (AREC461)
- ◆ Structured paragraphs (similar to the rhetorical précis)
- ◆ Outlines of papers or projects
- ◆ Write-and-pass
- ◆ Journals  
“Students write one or two pages weekly on topics directly related to the assigned text. Students must show a basic understanding of the assigned material.” (AG421)
- ◆ Discussion entries on class list-serve (Blackboard site)
- ◆ Brainstorming  
“We start all assignments with brainstorm sessions. We explore all the possible ways to approach the subject, discuss format, and weigh strengths and weaknesses of various ideas.” (HORT418)

### Feedback to Students on their Writing

- ◆ Instructor’s written response (with or without a grade)
- ◆ Conferences with instructor
- ◆ Peer review (in groups or with partners), review sheets
- ◆ Student models of properly written assignments

### WIC classes Reviewed by the Baccalaureate Core Committee

**AG 421**  
Leadership Development

**AREC 461**  
Agricultural  
and Food Policy Issues

**CSS 315**  
Nutrient Management  
and Cycling

**CSS/HORT 480**  
Case Studies in  
Cropping Systems Management

**FW 481**  
Wildlife Ecology

**FW 497**  
Aquaculture

**HORT 311**  
Plant Propagation

**HORT 418**  
Golf Course Maintenance

**RNG 403**  
Senior Thesis

### Formal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Meeting minutes
- ◆ Self-assessment narrative  
“Critically analyze your personality by describing how the positive personality traits you possess can work to your advantage when leading people and when you would use them. In addition, you are also asked to describe a not-so-positive personality trait that you possess and how that could work against you ...” AG421)
- ◆ Problem-solving exercise
- ◆ PowerPoint presentation
- ◆ Interview transcription
- ◆ Policy paper
- ◆ Position brief
- ◆ Lab report
- ◆ Case study
- ◆ Expository report/research paper or project
- ◆ Formal abstract
- ◆ Memoranda
- ◆ Proposal for paper or research
- ◆ Thesis

### Writing as a Process

- ◆ Brainstorming
- ◆ Flow chart of writing project
- ◆ Outlines of papers
- ◆ Writing Center
- ◆ Revision, multiple revision
- ◆ Cumulative Project
- ◆ Portfolio