



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.” (CSS 315)
- ◆ Micro themes
“Respond to a question or comment on a concept, video or other material presented in class. They write their responses on a 3x4 card during a 5-minute period in class.” (FW 497)
- ◆ Rhetorical précis of course readings
“In the summaries, they are attacking the writing process one sentence at a time.” (AREC 461)
- ◆ 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.” (AG 421)
- ◆ Discussion entries on class list-serve (Blackboard site)
- ◆ Brainstorming

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

FST 424
Food Formulation
Chemistry

FST 425
Food Systems Chemistry

FW 497
Aquaculture

HORT 311
Plant Propagation

HORT 318
Applied Ecology of
Managed Ecosystems

HORT 385
Landscape Operations

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 ...” (AG 421)
- ◆ 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