

Example Evaluation Essay

English 101: An Excellent Research and Composition Course

The ideal research and composition class offers students the opportunity to learn about different research methods, practice properly citing sources according to their chosen or assigned style guide, and perfect their writing skills with a variety of different essay and paper types. However, the best research and composition courses also include an emphasis on revision and giving and receiving feedback about written work. To do this, the instructor must foster a supportive and emotionally safe classroom environment for students to share their work with one another. English 101 at Northwestern Michigan Community College meets many of the criteria to be considered an excellent research and composition course at the community college level.

As a student in English 101, I have personal experience with the methods and subject matter in this course. The subject matter builds on previous experiences students have from high school, giving them additional tools and skills to enhance their writing abilities. Specifically, this course takes the research portion of writing to the next level, giving students clear direction about the quality of sources and how to differentiate between primary and secondary source material. Students learn how to research their topics online, as well as in the college library. In the area of research, English 101 could provide students with more guidance on conducting primary research and directly interviewing subjects.

In addition to research methods, English 101 covers proper citation of sources in papers. Students learn MLA style, and the course touches upon other styles as well. It would be beneficial to have more instruction on other style guides, since students move from English 101 to a variety of courses of study. In some of these subjects, other style guides are the standard.

Despite the lack of diverse instruction when it comes to style guides, this course does cover a number of different paper and essay formats. Students learn how to write informational essays, opinion essays, research papers, and literary analysis. All of these types of writing are covered in excellent detail, and there are examples and practical tips to help. At the end of the course, students are familiar with many different forms of writing and the research required to produce this work.

Perhaps most importantly, English 101 is a class with a good emotional atmosphere. It offers a safe space for students to critique one another's work and grow as writers. Students are supportive of each other, and there is direct instruction in how to provide constructive feedback. This is immensely helpful for students who hope to grow into better writers.

Because English 101 meets most of the criteria for an exceptional research and composition course, I would recommend this class to all incoming students. The only potential drawback is a lack of variety in style guide instruction, but the course more than makes up for this shortcoming with its focus on writing critiques and helping students grow as writers.