

Dear Student,

Thank you for taking the AWPE (Analytical Writing Placement Exam). You have placed into English Composition 2: Approaches to University Writing.

### **What is English Composition 2?**

The goal of English Composition 2 is to help you build foundational skills needed for university-level reading and writing tasks to ensure you are prepared to succeed at UCLA. This workshop-style course emphasizes argument, coherence, and sentence-level clarity achieved through the revision process. You will learn rhetorical and organizational strategies to sustain and support your arguments as well as editing and proofreading strategies to produce polished, effective prose.

### **What will I do in class?**

In class, you might:

- Practice “close reading”; in other words, you will analyze the rhetorical strategies used to develop an argument or convey significance in writing.
- Learn how to read an assignment prompt critically and develop skills to respond to texts in different ways (define, argue, compare and contrast, summarize, analyze).
- Generate ideas for writing through in-class exercises or group activities.
- Read and write in a variety of ways. You may, for example, journal informally, compose low-stakes reflections, deliver oral presentations, work on in-class exercises and style worksheets, collaborate with peers, provide written feedback to peers, and more.

### **What kinds of assignments will I have?**

Assignments will ask you to:

- Analyze university-level texts from a range of genres and disciplines.
- Write essays that synthesize and respond to the ideas of authors you have read.
- Produce clearly organized, thesis-driven writing that responds effectively and imaginatively to assignment prompts.
- Develop revision skills to refine ideas and improve written expression.
- Acknowledge and cite the works of authors you have read using MLA (or another) citation format.

By the end of the quarter, you will produce around 15 pages of polished, revised prose.

To see a sample writing assignment from Dr. Ashley Newby's course, click [here](#). To see a sample reading from Dr. Newby's course, click [here](#).

### **Does this placement mean I am a bad writer?**

No! Many students who take English Composition 2 excelled at writing in high school. University-level writing is different from high school writing in many ways. English Composition 2 is meant to prepare you for the specific requirements and expectations of writing assignments at UCLA.

For example, in high school, you may have learned the 5-paragraph essay structure for organizing essays. In English Composition 2, you will learn how to choose and develop essay structures that better convey your ideas than the 5-paragraph formula. In high school, you may also have been taught to produce writing under tight constraints with little or no time for revision. In English Composition 2, you will learn to use writing as an iterative process that involves active reflection and revision in response to feedback. You will receive close attention from your instructor during the drafting process, and you will have the opportunity to revise and edit your writing over time, allowing you to achieve more clarity in your ideas and more control in your use of language and organization of ideas.

In high school, the focus of your writing assignments may have been on summarizing readings. In this course, you will learn to go beyond summary to craft arguments, analyses, and critical comparisons. Through this course, you also will learn critical thinking and analytical strategies that you may not have learned in high school. Students come to university to encounter new ideas or take familiar ideas to new levels. This course will develop your ability to join complex conversations, using writing as a means to explore, discover, and learn.

### **What do students think about English Composition 2?**

Most students who take English Composition 2 report that they found it to be valuable preparation for writing at the university level.

Here are some comments made by students who have taken English Composition 2 at UCLA:

*"I am glad to have been placed in this course because it allowed me to realize how much I needed to improve in my writing as well as develop better skills to analyze and process [...] my own thoughts and opinions."*

*"I am glad [that I took this course] because it has enabled me to grow as a writer, showed me various forms of college writing, and enabled us to share our individuality that ultimately impacts our writing."*