

Writing, Reading, and Researching at PSU

A Survival Guide for Students

Compiled by Hildy Miller, English Department

Welcome to PSU! Unlike many schools that simply require students to fulfill a general writing requirement, PSU urges each of you individually to consider carefully what you need in order to succeed as a writer, reader, and researcher. After all, no two of you have exactly the same needs, so we offer a range of options from which to choose. It's perhaps easiest to think of writing at PSU as a "stretch program" with a common core that can expand to meet the needs of each individual student. The common core is University Studies' Freshman Inquiry (FRINQ), taken by all freshmen at PSU. Some of you may find that this course meets your writing needs, while others may wish to stretch that core in order to further develop your writing, reading, and research skills. This guide should help you choose resources.

Do you want to sign up for a 4-credit course for writing, reading, and researching practice? Often the time and money you invest in a course pays off later in the knowledge you gain.

Ling 115 Writing for Non-Native Residents If your native language isn't English and you are having trouble with writing in your classes, this two level course can help you with grammatical and reading and rhetorical challenges and/or academic writing.

WR 115 Introduction to College Writing For all freshman students who just plain feel unprepared for college writing, this course can help you build confidence and practice writing, reading, and researching strategies. Offered Pass/No Pass Only.

WR 199 Introduction to College Reading For all lower division students who feel unprepared for college reading, this course can introduce you to useful strategies.

WR 121 College Writing An all-purpose writing course for all freshmen and sophomores who want to learn rhetorical strategies, understand textual conventions, and practice critical thinking.

WR 121 College Writing for International Students Identical to regular sections of WR 121 but addresses special cultural needs students may have in adjusting to North American writing.

WR 222 Writing Research Papers In-depth focus on how to conduct academic research using a topic of your choice. From how to use the library to how to document sources—it's all here.

WR 299 Introduction to College Grammar For all students who wish to improve their grammar knowledge and skills

WR 323 Writing as Critical Inquiry An all-purpose writing course for all juniors and seniors who want to tackle advanced issues in reading, writing, and researching in the university.

WR 323 Writing as Critical Inquiry for International Students Identical to regular sections of WR 323 but addresses cultural issues of North American academic writing.

WR 300 Writing in the Disciplines Learn the conventions of writing in your major by researching it yourself. For all juniors and seniors who want to understand their field's writing or to prepare for graduate school.

No time for a writing course but want to improve your grammar and mechanics? Try our two-credit studio where you can bring in your work from other classes.

WR 199 Grammar Refresher

Need help with the writing, reading, or research for a particular paper or project? Tutoring is available, but remember, it's for when you're stuck and need help with a specific piece of writing. If you find yourself going to the writing center more than a few times, sign up for a course or a studio instead.

The Writing Center 188F Cramer Hall, 725-3570 <www.writingcenter@pdx.edu> For any student who needs help such as sorting out particular language usage issues, understanding the academic conventions of particular assignments, making sense of how plagiarism differs from citing sources, or figuring out problems of grammar and usage, the Writing Center can meet with you for an individual half-hour session. Workshops on a variety of topics on reading, writing, and research are also offered. Sign up ahead of time. Some drop in hours may be offered in fall. Some 1-credit quarter-long tutorials available.

The Skills Enhancement and Tutoring Center 425 Smith Center, 725-4448, <www.pdx.edu> Peer tutors are available on a drop-in basis to help students at any part of the writing process. If you'd like help with idea generation, organizational issues, final editing, or anything in between, SETC tutors can help. Writing resources are also available for students to use.

Got the reading and writing down, but baffled by how to use the library and conduct research?

Take a course (WR 222 Writing Research Papers); take a workshop through the writing center; and, by all means, visit the Research Survival website of the PSU Library (<http://www.lib.pdx.edu/instruction/survivalguide/index.htm#>).

Still not sure which course, studio, or tutorial option is right for you? Meet with an advisor, instructor, or writing specialist. Be sure to take samples of your writing with you.

Advisors & Instructors: Meet with an I-ASC advisor if you are new to campus or haven't yet declared your major. If you've declared your major, meet with the appropriate advisor(s) recommended by your department. Or talk to your instructor about your writing needs.

Writing Specialists: Or meet with one of the following writing specialists.

Judy Reed, Coordinator of English as a Second Language programs, <reedj@pdx.edu>

Hildy Miller, Director of Writing, <milleh@pdx.edu>

Kate Sage, Coordinator of the Writing Center <ksage@pdx.edu>

Very Cool and Useful Writing Resources: Online and Print

General Writing, Reading, and Research Resources

PSU Writing Center www.writingcenter@pdx.edu

Has a vast stash of writing handouts.

PSU Library Research Survival <http://www.lib.pdx.edu/instruction/survivalguide/index.htm#>

Great handouts on all aspects of research

Purdue University Writing Lab -- Using MLA & APA Formats; Citing Electronic Resources

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/index.html>

Purdue University Library - Evaluating Web Resources

<http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/~techman/eval.html>

Online English Grammar Help Rutgers

<http://newark.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/>

Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus

<http://www.m-w.com/home.htm>

Recommended Handbook for Writers and Guide to Conducting Research

Order from PSU bookstore or directly from publisher.

A Writer's Reference Diane Hacker (Bedford St. Martin's) writing handbook

The Curious Researcher Bruce Ballenger (Allyn and Bacon) – guide to writing research
Papers

Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It

University of Minnesota Plagiarism Site <http://writing.umn.edu/tww/plagiarism/index.htm>

University of Hawaii, Manoa, Plagiarism Site http://mwp01.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm

For Non-Native/English Second Language Speakers and Writers

Portland State University ESL Resources

http://www.ielp.pdx.edu/~dbssl/esl_site_list.html

Purdue University ESL Resources for Students
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl/index.html>

English as a Second Language – Rong-Chang Li
<http://www.rong-chang.com/>

Dave's ESL Café on the Net
<http://www.eslcafe.com/>

For Writers with Learning Disabilities

Disability Resource Center, 435 Smith Memorial Center
<http://www.ess.pdx.edu/iasc/drc/>

CAPS help with diagnosing disabilities, 343 Smith Memorial Center
http://www.ess.pdx.edu/caps/learning_disabilities.htm

Guides to Writing in the Disciplines

Order any of these books from the PSU bookstores or directly from the publisher.

- **Addison-Wesley Company *Short Guide Series*** <http://longman.awl.com>
A Short Guide to Writing about Art Sylvan Barnet
A Short Guide to Writing about Biology Jan Pechenik
A Short Guide to Writing about Chemistry Herbert Beal & John Trimbur
A Short Guide to Writing about Film Timothy Corrigan
A Short Guide to Writing about History Richard Marius
A Short Guide to Writing about Literature Sylvan Barnet
A Short Guide to Writing about Music Bellman
A Short Guide to Writing about Science David Porush
A Short Guide to Writing about Social Science Lee J. Cuba
- **D.C. Heath Publishing Company *Writer's Guide Series***
Writer's Guide: History
Writer's Guide: Life Sciences
Writer's Guide: Political Science
Writer's Guide: Psychology
- **Bedford/St. Martin's Publishing** www.bedfordbooks.com
A Pocket Guide to Writing in History Mary Lynn Rampolla
Writing in the Sciences Ann Penrose & Steven Katz
- **Prentice-Hall Publishing** <http://www.prenhall.com/>
The Political Science Student Writer's Manual Gregory Scott & Stephen Garrison
Writing about the Humanities Robert DiYanni
Writing and Thinking in the Social Sciences Sharon Friedman
The History Student Writer's Manual Mark Hellstern, et al.
The Sociology Student Writer's Manual William Johnson, et al.

- **Allyn and Bacon Publishing** <http://www.abacon.com>
How to Write Psychology Papers Les Parrott III
Writing for Psychology Christopher Thaiss & James Sanford
Writing for Law Enforcement Christopher Thaiss & John Hess
Writing About Theatre Christopher Thaiss & Rick Davis
Researching and Writing in the Humanities Christine Hult
Researching and Writing in the Social Sciences Christine Hult
Researching and Writing in the Sciences and Technology Christine Hult