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Are You Ready for College Writing?

You will be expected to write for every college course, not just English courses. If you don't feel prepared for this, don't worry – your entire college career will be spent developing and refining this skill.

Expectations

- Write 1-2 pages in response to in-class essay questions
- Write 3-5 page essays for at home assignments
- Write and identify a thesis statement
- Take a position on a topic and defend your position through evidence and reasoning
- Actively engage with text by summarizing, analyzing, and critiquing an author's point of view
- Connect literature to current events or personal experiences
- Understand the citation process and the seriousness of plagiarism
- Spell correctly and use Standard English Dialect.

Tips for Success

- Realize that good writing involves revision – “A” papers have been through multiple rewrites
- Consider your audience – an academic essay should not have the same language as a tweet or a Facebook post
- Evaluate your sources – academic journals, newspapers, and government websites are usually trusted sources, but you should be more careful with privately run websites and blogs
- **Don't ever plagiarize – plagiarism is taken very seriously at the college level, and can lead to course failure or expulsion.**

Resource

Purdue Online Writing Lab
<https://owl.purdue.edu/>

Guide to Grammar and Writing
<http://guidetogrammar.org>

Sample Prompt

A School Board is concerned that the state's requirements for core courses in mathematics, English, science, and social studies may prevent students from taking important elective courses like music, other languages, and vocational education. The School Board would like to encourage more high school students to take elective courses and is considering two proposals. One proposal is to lengthen the school day to provide students with the opportunity to take elective courses. The other proposal is to offer elective courses in the summer. Write a letter to the School Board in which you argue for lengthening the school day or for offering elective courses

If this prompt seems difficult, talk to your guidance counselor about taking classes that will better prepare you for college. There are also excellent resources on the web with information on the writing process, grammar, research, and citation.

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