Good Writing Habits

The following series of assignments are designed to help students develop habits of writing that can help reduce anxiety about writing and support better planning and time management. I require students to choose one habit for each half of the term to develop. Students can increase their grade by opting to develop additional habits.

# Master Assignment

I describe the main assignment and then offer students a range of options.

## Assignment Purpose

Good Writing Habit assignments provide you the opportunity to strengthen your academic writing skills and habits and demonstrate your commitment to getting the most out of your experience in WR 320. Complete one each half of the term.

Good writers write more over time. Start your path to an "A" in WR 320 by completing at least two Good Writing Habit assignments by the end of Week 6.

## Tasks

1. Choose one of the Good Writing Habit options available in the first half of the term. Options are listed in the Good Writing Habits Module (see examples below).

2. Follow the instructions on the assignment.

### Formatting and Submitting Your Work

Submit a pdf or .docx with all elements of the assignment completed.

Assignment elements such as academic summaries should follow the format in the assignment instructions.

All descriptions and reflections should be proofread. It's your choice whether to double or single space.

## Criteria For Evaluation

To earn a "complete" on this assignment, you must:

* Clearly Indicate which Good Writing Habit assignment you have chosen
* Provide evidence that you have completed all tasks of the assignment
* Submit the required 250 or 500-word reflection that:
  + Describes what you did with enough detail so that I can understand the steps you took to complete the work
  + Reflects on what you learned about yourself as a writer in completing the task

# Option 1: Develop A Daily Writing Habit

## Assignment Purpose

This Good Writing Habit assignment gives you motivation to develop a daily writing habit. Spending time writing \*something\* every day exercises your writing muscle and can be a good antidote to writer’s block.

You can complete this assignment twice — once in the first half of the term and once in the second half of the term.

## Tasks

1. Set aside at least 15-20 minutes a day to write. You can work on any kind of writing during this time — journaling, homework for WR 320 or other classes, or a personal writing project. It’s okay to one or two days a week as your “weekend” from writing (I don’t do my daily writing habit on Thursdays).

2. Keep track of your hours. Use a spreadsheet, make a note in your journal, etc. — whatever works for you to keep yourself accountable!

3. Submit a 500-word description of your experience and a reflective response at midterm and in finals week.

Your habit doesn’t need to be perfect!

## Submitting Your Work

Your submission should be proofread and each part clearly labeled.

## Criteria for Evaluation

To earn a "complete" on this assignment, you must:

* Write (almost) daily!
* Submit a 500-word reflection that:
  + Describes how planned and executed your daily writing habit — including both successes and challenges (250 words)
  + Reflects on what you learned about writing and about yourself as a writer from the process (250 words)

# Option 2: Create A Writing Circle

## Assignment Purpose

This Good Writing Habit assignment gives you motivation to try out a “writing circle” — a group of writers who commit to holding each other accountable to meeting writing goals.

You can complete this assignment twice — once in the first half of the term and once in the second half of the term.

## Tasks

1. Find or organize a group of students who commit to weekly accountability check-ins. Ideally, you set aside a time that you will meet to work together. I’m in a writing circle that meets on Zoom on Fridays for three hours. We check in for 10 minutes at the start and the end.

2. Set a writing goal for that is achievable for the first half of the term — such as completing and submitting writing assignments for WR 320 on time!

3. Meet with your writing group. I’ll provide opportunities to report progress on Exit Tickets.

4. Submit a 500-word description of your group, goals, and activities and a reflective response at midterm and/or at the end of the term.

### Submitting Your Work

Your submission should be proofread and each part clearly labeled.

## Criteria for Evaluation

To earn a "complete" on this assignment, you must:

* Meet with your writing circle and check in!
* Submit a 500-word reflection that:
  + Describes how you planned and executed your writing circle (250 words)
  + Reflects on what you learned about writing and about yourself as a writer from the process (250 words)

# Option 3: Meet Other Writers

## Assignment Purpose

This Good Writing Habit assignment supports you in making connections with writers outside of our class. Good writers make connections with others writers who can troubleshoot issues and offer accountability and support.

## Tasks

1. Drop in for at least 30 minutes to the Writing, Public Speaking, and Critical Reasoning (WSCR) Meet-Up:

Nov. 8

3:30-5 p.m.

Tykeson Hall

2. Submit a 500-word description of describing and reflection on your experience and comparing.

### Submitting Your Work

Your submission should be proofread and each part clearly labeled.

## Criteria for Evaluation

To earn a "complete" on this assignment, you must:

* Come to the meet up!
* Submit a 500-word reflection that:
  + Describes your experience and how you participated (250 words)
  + Reflects on what you learned about writing and about yourself as a writer from the process (250 words)

# Option 4: Final Portfolio Swap

## Assignment Purpose

This Good Writing Habit assignment gives you more experience seeking feedback on your work from your peers.

## Tasks

1. Arrange to exchange draft material for your Final Portfolio with one or more of the members of our class. Or make arrangements to practice your presentation in person or over Zoom with one or more members of your new base group.

2. Document how you are sharing (using screenshots or photos, for example) so that I can get a sense of how you have exchanged material.

3. Write a 500-word reflection about what you learned by seeking and giving additional help from/to your new team.

### Submitting Your Work

Your submission should be proofread and each part clearly labeled.

## Criteria for Evaluation

To earn a "complete" on this assignment, you must:

* Exchange and review material and/or practice presenting.
* Submit a 500-word reflection that:
  + Describes how you prepared for the exchange and what actions you took during the exchange (think of this as a narrative -- the story of how you shared your work with your team) (250 words)
  + Reflects on what you learned about your project and about yourself as a writer and team member from the process (250 words)