

Center for Instructional Development and Research

100 Gerberding Hall
Box 351265
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-1265
Phone: 206.543.6588
Fax: 206.685.1213
Email: cidr@u.washington.edu

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb>

Information for People who Teach
at the University of Washington

Pieces of the Writing Puzzle

"There are lots of sites where good work on student writing is happening. The challenge is how to fit them together."

College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Curriculum Writing Committee

Across the UW campus, many programs and groups work with student writing. The goal of this Bulletin is to familiarize the campus community with writing opportunities that students have and resources that can help instructors build on the writing experiences students bring to their classes. Knowing what experiences and expectations students bring to your courses can help you improve students' writing.

UW STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING (UW SOUL)

Writing experiences students bring to your classes can help them succeed with the writing you assign, but to transfer the skills they bring to your context, students need to know the conventions of your discipline. Explicit assignments, opportunities to write drafts and receive feedback, and sample papers are some of the things students say help them meet writing expectations in their courses. To read more about students' perceptions of their writing experiences at UW, visit the UW SOUL report, *Writing at UW: The First Year*:

<http://www.washington.edu/oea/soul/index.html>

THE EXPOSITORY WRITING PROGRAM (EWP)

The Expository Writing Program is responsible for teaching more than 4,000 students each year in one of four primary courses, each of which satisfies the University's "C" course or composition requirement. These courses present students with various types of readings from which students draw concepts and evidence for their argumentative, academic papers. To read more about what students learn in these courses, visit this site:

<http://depts.washington.edu/engl/ewp/>

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY WRITING PROGRAM (IMP)

The Interdisciplinary Writing Program offers writing courses (ENG 197, ENGL 198, ENGL 199) linked with lecture courses in some 15 disciplines. Writing Links strengthen students' ability to read, write, and think critically in the context of disciplinary study. Assignments in a Writing Link always focus on materials, issues, and purposes relevant to the accompanying lecture course, and most students say

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that pairing a writing course with a lecture course enhances their learning in both. To read more about what students learn in Writing Links, visit this site:
<http://depts.washington.edu/engl/iwp/>

WRITING CENTERS

Rather than a single campus-wide writing center, the UW has many smaller, department-based writing centers. These centers are staffed by undergraduate majors or graduate students whose familiarity with the kinds of writing done in their disciplines makes them valuable resources for student writers. To read more about the many campus writing centers, visit this site:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/jwholmes/uwwrite.html>

CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH (CIDR)

CIDR staff are available to consult with faculty and TAs on all aspects of writing instruction:

- integrating writing into the course as a whole
- developing writing assignments
- designing draft, peer review, and revision opportunities
- responding to student writing
- grading students written work
- exploring the role that writing can play in student learning in your course

CIDR also provides print and web resources in these areas and CIDR staff can help collect and interpret data on students' perceptions of their learning in your course.

To view CIDR's collection of writing resources, visit:

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/resources/writingtools.html>



Center for Instructional Development and Research

CIDR promotes excellence in teaching and learning at the University of Washington through its work with individual faculty and TAs, departments, campus-wide initiatives, and University leaders. CIDR staff are available year-round to collaborate on the design, implementation, and assessment of ways to advance teaching and learning for all students in the diverse UW community. Consultations are confidential and offered at no charge to UW faculty, TAs, and departments.

If you have questions about teaching and learning, or you would like to find out more about working with CIDR, you can call us at 543-6588, send a message to cidr@u.washington.edu, or visit our web site:

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/>



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL