

WR 123 – Research

Instructor: Matthew J. Schmidgall
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Office Hours: MW, 11:00AM – 12:00PM
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Course Text and required materials:

- *The Bedford Researcher*, 5th edition, Mike Palmquist
- Access to a computer and the internet

Recommended Materials:

- Manila folders, note cards, and a filing system.
- Index dividers for the folders that you can label.

Note: BACK UP YOUR WORK. Do not keep your only copy of work on one device. Accidents can and do happen. An entire quarter's work can be wipe out, and this course is structured around long-term projects. Use both flash drives and email backups to safeguard your work.

Course Description

WR123 Research Writing introduces informative and analytical writing supported by research. You will design a research plan, use primary and secondary sources critically, develop research methods, use proper documentation and develop writing strategies for longer papers.

Linn-Benton Community College WR 123 Outcomes

As a result of taking WR 123, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the rhetorical needs (the needs of their audience in relationship to the assignment) for college-level research-based writing assignments.
2. Apply appropriate levels of critical thinking strategies (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in their written assignments, with an emphasis on in-depth evidence-based analysis and evaluation in academic contexts.
3. Implement appropriate rhetorical elements and organization (introduction, thesis, development and research-based support, visual evidence, conclusion, etc.) in their written assignments, with an emphasis on in-depth evidence-based analysis and evaluation.
4. Locate, evaluate, and integrate high-quality information and opinion appropriate for in-depth research-based informational, analysis and argument assignments.
5. Craft sentences and paragraphs that communicate their ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions at a high college level to make their writing clear and credible.

What Your Instructor Expects

Plan to:

1. Read the assigned materials,
2. Turn in assignments by deadlines as stated,
3. Spend about nine hours per week working on assigned materials,
4. Revise assignments at least twice.

Prerequisite Skills:

On entering WR123, you need to have completed WR121 composition successfully and be able to write a sustained essay with a narrowed thesis sentence, with paragraphs developed using a variety of rhetorical modes, and to have had some preliminary experience including sources to back up your main ideas. You should also have a good sense of the writing process that works best for you and effective proofreading skills. Finally, you will need reasonably proficient word-processing skills and consistent access to a computer.

Assignments and Grading:

100pts Quizzes and Participation
100pts Conference and Peer Reviews
300pts Homework
 100pts Article Summaries
 50pts Interview
 75pts Proposal
 75pts Outline
500pts Final Research Paper

Grading Scale

900 – 1000 points = A
800 – 899 points = B
700 – 799 points = C
600 – 699 points = D
0 – 599 points = F

Final Research Paper Minimums:

1. The final research paper will show evidence of paraphrasing, quoting and summarizing and will be balanced between research that you have found and your interpretations of that research.
2. The final research paper must have a minimum of 8-10 pages of text and will also include a formal title page, a formal outline, an abstract, and a Works Cited page.
3. The Works Cited page will need to include a minimum of 8-10 sources and a minimum of one interview. All citations (in-text and in the Works Cited page) will show correct use of documentation format, following MLA, APA, Chicago, or CSE.

Note: You must commit to a topic by the beginning of week 3.

Late Papers

Major assignments will be marked down a full letter grade for the first day of lateness and 1/3 of a letter grade for each following business day of lateness. If you are ill or cannot submit your paper on time, please email or speak to me **IN ADVANCE** to make arrangements.

Late assignments are not accepted if they are more than a week late. This cut-off will not be invoked if you have had a documented medical emergency or have discussed turning the assignment in late before it was officially due.

In-class participation and peer reviews cannot be made up under any circumstance.

Participation & Attendance

Participation is expected. Active participation—voicing your opinions by regularly speaking in class, asking questions, sharing in-class writing, contributing to group activities is essential. Treat class like you would a job—show up on time, stay involved, and do your best to attend. Frequent absences and/or disengagement in the classroom will make it much harder to receive a passing grade.

Email

One of the ways we will stay in contact is through email. Though not graded, emails are important and will be expected to be professional. I do my best to respond to emails Monday through Friday, but I typically do not check my email over the weekend. Complex questions are best saved for office hours. Do not use email as a substitute for attending class.

Classroom Conduct

The classroom is a safe environment in which students and an instructor come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process. Behaviors that are disruptive to learning include but are not limited to: talking while others have the floor, using cell phones, texting, reading the newspaper, arriving late or leaving early. Conduct which repeatedly disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Academic Dishonesty

Do not cheat. Any plagiarism or use of someone else's writing (including sentences or phrases), information, or ideas without proper attribution and citations – intentional or accidental – may result in an F on the paper or for the course. As a general rule, if you did not write an assignment for this specific class, during this specific term, specifically for me, do not turn it in.

Regarding Self-Plagiarism

Do not submit any papers you have written for another class or instructor even if you were the one who wrote the paper. Please speak with me if you have any questions or would like clarification on what constitutes self-plagiarism.

Incompletes

Incompletes are uncommon and should be avoided if at all possible. If you have completed approximately 80 percent of the course work by the end of the term but are unable, for reasons that are generally not your fault, to complete the rest, I will grant you an incomplete.

You must complete the majority of your final research paper to qualify for an incomplete.

Center For Accessibility Resources

Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency should speak with their instructor during the first week of class. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR), please visit the [CFAR Website](#) for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

LBCC Non-Discrimination Policy

Everyone is welcome at LBCC, regardless of whether they are black, white, Latino, native, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, male, female, transgendered, married, disabled, a veteran, a non-English speaker, an immigrant, or any number of other categories not listed here. What is more, LBCC sees our differences as a source of strength and an important part of education.

Writing Center

From invention to revision, beginning to end, the LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. Please feel free to drop in during regular hours to work one-on-one with a Writing Assistant. In addition to your draft, bring your assignment and any questions you have. You may also submit your writing online at lbcc.writingcenteronline.net where you will get a personalized response within 1 – 2 business days.