

INTRO TO ACADEMIC WRITING

SEPTEMBER 9 – OCTOBER 16, 2025

ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor John Wolfer
Contact johnmwolfer@gmail.com
Days/Times Tuesdays & Thursdays / 12:00 – 13:50
Zoom Info ID: 935 071 1503 PW: john

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This five-week online course is designed for CNU graduate students new to academic writing. This course aims to introduce students to academic writing and prepare them for the expectations of college-level writing. Throughout the course, students will develop fundamental skills in academic writing, including but not limited to

- understanding basic academic writing structure
- writing clear sentences and paragraphs
- learning basic vocabulary and transitions used in academic writing
- practicing writing short academic texts with guidance
- getting individual support for their academic writing

Goal: To build students' competence in basic academic writing skills in small, manageable steps with the use of modeling, group work, and guided practice.

COURSE MATERIALS

The instructor will provide all materials and handouts for each class via Zoom chat or by email. Also, the ability to submit files in *doc*, *docx*, or *pdf* formats will be required. **No .hwp files, please.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

To pass this course, students need to attend a minimum of 80% of total class hours (at least 16 hours out of 20). If you know you are going to absent (e.g., official school event or business trip), please let me know ahead of time to set up a mutually beneficial circumstance so you can still complete the course.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Week 1 Foundations of Academic Writing
- Introductions & ice breaker
 - Differences between academic and informal writing
 - Breaking down a sentence
 - Practice: Write 3 formal sentences about your daily life or weekend schedule
- Week 2 Unpacking a Paragraph
- Parts of the paragraph (topic sentence, details, examples, closing)
 - Topic sentence practice
 - Using connectors to combine ideas
 - Practice: Write a short paragraph about your favorite city or your hometown
- Week 3 Writing about Ideas
- Using transition words
 - Introducing a simple process
 - Sharing our opinions
 - Practice: Write a short opinion paragraph with support and reasons
 - 1:1 Individualized Support
- Week 4 Descriptive Paragraphs
- Using adjectives to enhance our writing
 - Comparing and contrasting
 - Introduce final project
 - Practice: Write about our hero using details and descriptive language
 - 1:1 Individualized Support
- Week 5 Putting it all Together
- Reviewing key skills
 - Writing pitfalls
 - Student presentations
 - Final feedback and evaluations
 - 1:1 Individualized Support