

Missouri Western State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism  
ENG104-40 College Writing and Rhetoric  
Online  
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Office hours: by appointment

**Required Text:**

Escholz, Paul and Alfred Rosa, eds. *Subjects/Strategies: A Writer's Reader*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford, 2008.

**Optional Text:**

**I cannot stress the importance of having a good handbook. If you already have a handbook from another class, that is fine.**

**Course Objectives:**

This course is the first of a two-part composition requirement at Missouri Western. In this course you will begin to look at your own, your peers' and professionals' writing as ways to communicate complex ideas effectively. For the purposes of this course, let's define *rhetoric* as the art of employing specific modes, or elements, in your writing, usually with the idea of influencing your reader in some way. The term also applies to speaking, and you may have heard it used in that context.

**In English 104-40 you will meet the following objectives:**

- Learn the elements of four specific rhetorical modes
- Be aware of the audience for each of these papers
- Practice pre-writing as a way to organize your ideas for your papers
- Edit your own and your peers' papers
- Read essays which use each of the four modes and be able to evaluate their effectiveness

**To meet these objectives you will:**

- Write four papers, each of which uses one of four modes
- Share ideas with others in the class to establish a sense of audience
- Complete pre-writing assignments
- Edit your own and your peers' papers both for content and form

**Grading policy:**

The grading scale is as follows:

100-90% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59-0% = F

Remember, you must receive a grade of "C" or above to enroll in English 108 next semester.

Each assignment you are given will be worth a specific amount of points, and the possible total points value of each assignment will be clearly indicated on the assignment.

**Requirements and advice:**

- Because this is an online class, I expect you to have daily access to a computer. You must have an open email account at MWSU in order to participate in this class.
- One idea some people have about online classes is that they can do the work "any time they want to." That is true, up to a point. You cannot, however, turn in work "any time you want to." I have specific due dates and time restrictions on assignments. The key to being successful in a course of this nature is keeping up with daily work and pacing yourself. Waiting until the last minute to do your work is the kiss of death.
- I will not accept late work. If you are having technical difficulties, contact me.
- Make sure you save your work to something you have access to. Don't save it to a desktop you may not be able to get to each day. NEVER save anything to a MWSU desktop. They are cleared daily and your work will disappear.
- I insist on professionalism and respect in your interactions, both with me and with your peers. Postings for class discussion should contain

language your grandmother could read without blushing. This doesn't mean we can't disagree. I encourage it, as long as we are all civil with one another. Sometimes it is difficult to convey tone effectively online.

- If you have some unforeseen problem, contact me. I cannot help you if I don't know what is going on. Students often think the problem will just go away.
- If you don't hear from me for a few days, or don't get a response to your paper, please contact me to see if there is a problem. I may not have received your work. Keep on top of our communication and I will do the same.
- Feel free to stop by my office if you wish. Just because we are online doesn't mean we have to be completely anonymous.

#### **Paper Topics and Due Dates:**

**Paper #1: Process Analysis essay--Due June 12**

**Paper #2: Comparison/contrast essay--Due June 26**

**Paper #3: Cause and Effect Analysis essay--Due July 10**

**Paper #4: Argumentative essay—Due July 24**

#### **Attendance policy:**

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200-level courses. You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event.

All other absences will be deemed unexcused. **As this is a non-traditional class, I cannot take daily attendance. Your participation is your attendance. Thus, when you have failed to post or turn in your work during the first week of class you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class.** The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

#### **Student Disability:**

Students with disabilities (impaired hearing, vision, reading disorders, etc.) should notify me in writing of the disability before the end of the first week of class. In consultation with the Center for Academic Support, I will work out a course of study for such students.

#### **Academic Honesty Policy:**

I abide by all the regulations outlined in the Missouri Western State College Catalog and Student Handbook:

##### *Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process*

*Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.*

*Please see the 2006-07 Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>*

I will not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or claiming another's work as your own. Please don't cheat! If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will automatically assign that student an "F" for the course.

Week 1	June 2	Read "Welcome" on WebCT
June 2-5		Read "The Reading Process" pages 3-6 Read "Process Analysis" pages 207-219
	June 3	Read "How to Mark a Book" pages 220-224 Use the steps in "The Reading Process" to read and annotate "How to Mark a Book." Send me your annotations via the drop box. This assignment is worth 10 points.
	June 4	Read "How to Say Nothing in 500 Words" pages 227-238. Re-write paragraph two of this essay, using some of the suggestions Roberts gives for improving writing. Post your new version of paragraph two to the discussion board. This assignment is worth 10 points.
	June 5	Read "Why Leaves Turn Color in the Fall" pages 244-247 Read "Campus Racism 101" pages 249-253

Assignment to be handed in TBA

Week 2  
June 9-12  
June 9 prewrite  
June 10 rough draft/post 50 points  
June 11 comment 50 points  
June 12 editing strategies  
final draft due by 11:30 p.m. 100 points

Week 3  
June 16-19  
June 16 Read "Comparison and Contrast" pages 258-271  
Read "Neat People vs. Sloppy People" pages 276-278  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
June 17 Read "Of Weirdos and Eccentrics" pages 280-282  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
June 18 Read "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" pages 293-298  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
June 19 Read linked assignment  
Assignment to be handed in TBA

Week 4  
June 23-26  
June 23 prewrite  
June 24 rough draft/post 50 points  
June 25 comment 50 points  
June 26 final draft due by 11:30 p.m. 100 points

Week 5  
June 30-  
July 3  
June 30 Read "Cause and Effect Analysis" pages 408-420  
Read "How Boys Becomes Men" pages 421-423  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
July 1 Read "How Reading Changed My Life" pages 426-429  
Read "iPod World: The End of Society?" pages 432-435  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
July 2 Read "The Real Computer Virus" pages 437-443  
Read "The Great Kern County Mouse War" pages 446-451  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
July 3 Read linked assignment  
Assignment to be handed in TBA

Week 6  
July 7-10  
July 7 prewrite  
July 8 rough draft/post 50 points  
July 9 comment 50 points  
July 10 final draft due by 11:30 p.m. 100 points

Week 7  
July 14-17  
July 14 Read "Argumentation" pages 454-473  
Read "The Case for Short Words" pages 480-483  
Assignment to be handed in TBA  
July 15 Read "I Have a Dream" pages 486-489  
Read "What Does It Mean to Love One's Country?" pages 492-497

Assignment to be handed in TBA

July 16 Read "My Father Was an Anonymous Sperm Donor" pages 500-505  
Assignment to be handed in TBA

July 17 Read linked assignment  
Assignment to be handed in TBA

Week 8

July 21-24

July 21 prewrite

July 22 rough draft/post 50 points

July 23 comment 50 points

July 24 final draft due by 11:30 p.m. 100 points