

Academic year: 2021-2022

Level: 2nd year

Subject; writing

Module: Language...

Semester: 1 & 2

Course description:

This course focuses on developing the learners' ability to write effective short expository essays. According to the Purdue Online Writing Lab¹, the expository essay "is a genre of essay that requires the student to investigate an idea, evaluate evidence, expound on the idea, and set forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner. This can be accomplished through comparison and contrast, definition, example, the analysis of cause and effect, etc." Under the cover term of expository writing, two rhetorical modes are in focus: argumentation and cause and effect.

The learners are provided with relevant reading material to prepare for the writing assignments.

Specific learning goal:

Students will:

1. Compose five-paragraph essays that use evidence, sources, and appropriate rhetorical modes to support topic sentences and thesis statements. The essay must be coherently organized with a clear understanding of the respective functions of introductory, developmental, and concluding paragraphs.

Activities:

1. Classroom writing
2. Home assignments

Evaluation:

The student's performance in this course is evaluated in accordance with the following elements:

¹ https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/expository_essays.html

- Regular attendance and effective participation
- Carrying out classroom activities and home assignments
- In-class test grades

Course outline:

Semester I	
Week	
1, 2 & 3	Review of paragraph structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic sentence: topic + controlling idea - Supporting sentences - Concluding sentence
4	From the paragraph to the short academic essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The introductory paragraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Thesis statement + blueprint - The body paragraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Topic sentence o Supporting sentences - The concluding paragraph
5	Introduction to the expository essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The argumentative essay - The cause-and-effect essay - The comparison and contrast essay - The definition essay
6 & 7	The argumentative essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorming and outlining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o opinion organization Developing your ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fact and opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interpreting facts to support an opinion Counterargument and refutation
8	Evaluation
9, 10 & 11	The cause-and-effect essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorming and outlining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cause and effect organization o Clustering information - Developing your ideas Causal chains
12	Evaluation
13 & 14	Review and feedback

Semester II	
1, 2, 3 & 4	The comparison and contrast essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorming and outlining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Comparison and contrast organization - Developing your ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Comparison and contrast connectors
5	Evaluation
6, 7, 8 & 9	The definition essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorming and outlining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Organization of the definition essay - Developing your ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Detailed description of the term/concept to be defined o Using examples and facts
10	Evaluation
11	Recalling the writing course milestones
12, 13 & 14	End-of-year exam revision

References:

1. Bailey, S. (2003). *Academic Writing, a Practical Guide for Students*. RoutledgeFalmer.
2. Zemach, D. E., & R, A. Lisa. (2005). *Academic Writing: from Paragraph to Essay*. Macmillan.
3. Savage, A., Mayer, P. (2005). *Effective Academic Writing 2: the Short Essay*. Oxford.