An Insider’s Guide to Academic Writing
A Rhetoric and Reader

PART ONE: A GUIDE TO COLLEGE AND COLLEGE WRITING

1. An Introduction to Colleges and Universities
2. Reading and Writing Rhetorically
3. Developing Arguments
4. Academic Research

PART TWO: INSIDE ACADEMIC WRITING

5. Reading and Writing in Academic Disciplines
6. Reading and Writing in the Humanities
7. Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences
8. Reading and Writing in the Natural Sciences
9. Reading and Writing in the Applied Fields

PART 3: ENTERING ACADEMIC CONVERSATIONS READINGS AND CASE STUDIES

10. Love, Marriage, and Family
11. Crime, Punishment, and Justice
12. Food, Sustainability, and Social Class
13. Global Climate Change and Natural Catastrophes

Appendix: Introduction to Documentation Styles
Index of Authors, Titles, and Terms
An Insider’s Guide to Academic Writing
A Rhetoric and Reader

PART ONE: A GUIDE TO COLLEGE AND COLLEGE WRITING

1. Inside Colleges and Universities
What is Higher Education?
   How do Colleges and Universities Differ from One Another?
   *Inside Work: Choosing a College*
What is the Purpose of College?
   *Inside Work: Writing about College*
What are Academic Disciplines?
   How Many Different Academic Disciplines Are There?
   *Inside Work: Understanding Disciplinarity*
Why Do Academics Write?
   *Inside Work: What Do Academics Write?*
How Does Writing in College Compare with Writing in Other Contexts?
   *Inside Work: Understanding the Goals of Your Writing Course*
What Do You Already Know about Writing in Different Contexts?
   *WRITING PROJECT: Literacy Narrative*
   *WRITING PROJECT: Interview with a Scholar*
   Example Interview with a Faculty Member

**Tip Sheet: Inside Colleges and Universities**

2. Reading and Writing Rhetorically
Understanding Rhetorical Context
   *Insider’s View: Karen Keaton Jackson, Writing Studies*
   *Inside Work: Identifying Rhetorical Context*
Understanding Genres
   *Insider’s Link*
Reading Rhetorically
Reading Visuals Rhetorically
   *Inside Work: Reading Rhetorically*
Writing Rhetorically
   *Inside Work: Analyzing Rhetorical Context*
Rhetorical Writing Processes
   *Insider’s View: Jody Baumgartner and Jonathan Morris, Political Science*
   *Insider’s View: Patrick Bahlis, Mathematics*
Writing a Rhetorical Analysis
   George H.W. Bush, Letter to Saddam Hussein
   *Insider Example: Student Rhetorical Analysis*
   *WRITING PROJECT: Rhetorical Analysis of a Text*

**Tip Sheet: Reading and Writing Rhetorically**
3. Developing Arguments
Understanding Proofs and Appeals
   Inside Work: Writing About Arguments
Making Claims
   Thesis vs. Hypothesis
Developing Reasons
   Inside Work: Constructing Thesis Statements
Supporting Reasons with Evidence
   Insider’s View: Moriah McCracken, Writing Studies
   Insider’s Link
   Inside Work: Analyzing Audience Expectations
Understanding Assumptions
   Inside Work: Considering Assumptions and Audience
Anticipating Counterarguments
   Insider’s View: Mike Brotherton, Astronomy
   Inside Work: Dealing with Counterarguments
Analyzing Arguments
   Insider Example: Professional Analysis of an Advertisement
   Jack Solomon, from “Masters of Desire: The Culture of American Advertising”
   Insider Example: Student Analysis of an Advertisement
   Timothy Holtzhauser, Rhetoric of a 1943 War Bonds Ad
WRITING PROJECT: Composing a Rhetorical Analysis of an Advertisement
Tip Sheet: Developing Arguments

4. Academic Research
Conducting Research
   Developing a Research Question
   Inside Work: Writing a Research Question
Choosing Primary and Secondary Sources
   Insider’s Link
   Insider’s View: Moriah McCracken, Writing Studies
   Inside Work: Collecting Primary Evidence
   Inside Work: Using Primary and Secondary Sources
Searching for Sources
   Identifying Search Terms
   Inside Work: Generating Search Terms
Using Journal Databases
   Searching for Journal Articles by Discipline
Evaluating Sources
   Distinguishing between Scholarly and Popular Sources
   Insider’s View: Jonathan Morris, Political Science
   Inside Work: Evaluating Sources
Summarizing, Paraphrasing and Quoting from Sources
   Summary
PART TWO: INSIDE ACADEMIC WRITING

5. Reading and Writing in Academic Disciplines
   Research in the Disciplines
   Conventions of Writing in the Discipline
   Genres in the Discipline
   Insider’s View: Karen Keaton Jackson, Writing Studies

Analyzing Genres and Conventions of Academic Writing
   Insider’s View: Moriah McCracken, Writing Studies

Adapting to Different Rhetorical Contexts: An Academic Writer at Work
   Insider’s View: Mike Brotherton, Astronomy: “Scientists must write all sorts of things”
   Insider Work: Reflecting on a Discipline

Using Rhetorical Context to Analyze Writing for a Non-Academic Audience
   Mike Brotherton, from “Hubble Space Telescope Spies Galaxy/Black Hole Evolution in Action”
   Insider’s View: Mike Brotherton, Astronomy
   Insider Work: Reflecting on Rhetorical Context

Using Structure, Language, and Reference to Analyze Academic Writing
   Insider’s Link
   M. S. Brotherton, Wil van Breughel, S. A. Stanford, R. J. Smith, B. J. Boyle,
   Lance Miller, T. Shanks, S. M. Croom, and Alexie V. Filipenko, From, A
   Spectacular Poststarburst Quasar
   Insider’s View: Mike Brotherton, Astronomy
   Insider Work: Reflecting on Disciplinary Writing
   WRITING PROJECT: Rhetorical Analysis of an Academic Article
   WRITING PROJECT: Comparative Rhetorical Analysis
   WRITING PROJECT: Comparing Scholarly and Popular Articles

Translating Scholarly Writing for Different Rhetorical Contexts
   Insider Example: Student Example of a Translation of a Scholarly Article
   Jonathan Nastasi, Life May Be Possible on Other Planets
6. **Reading and Writing in the Humanities**

Introduction to the Humanities
- *Insider’s View: John McCurdy, History*

Texts and Meaning
- *Inside Work: Thinking about Texts*

Observation and Interpretation
- *Inside Work: Observing and Asking Questions*

Research in the Humanities
- *Inside Work: Observing and Interpreting Images*

The Role of Theory in the Humanities

Close Reading in the Humanities
- Dale Jacobs, “More than Words: Comics as a Means of Teaching Multiple Literacies”

Strategies for Close Reading and Observation
- Kate Chopin, from “The Story of an Hour
- *Inside Work: Annotating a Text*
- Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
- *Inside Work: Preparing a Content/Form-Response Grid*

Responding to the Interpretations of Others
- *Insider’s Link*

Conventions of Writing in the Humanities
- *Insider’s View: Shelley Garrigan, Spanish Language and Literature*

Structural Conventions

Developing Research Questions and Thesis Statements
- *Insider’s View: Karen Keaton Jackson, Writing Studies*
- Examples of Research Questions and Corresponding Thesis Statements

Developing Effective Thesis Statements
- *Inside Work: Drafting Thesis Statements*

Five-Paragraph Essays and Other Thesis-Driven Templates

Other Structural Conventions in the Humanities
- Paragraphs and Transitions

Language Conventions in the Humanities
- Descriptive and rhetorical language
- Active voice
- Hedging

Reference Conventions in the Humanities
- Orientation toward other scholars

Documentation
- *Inside Work: Analyzing Scholarly Writing in the Humanities*

Genres of Writing in the Humanities
- *Insider’s View: Shelley Garrigan, Spanish Language and Literature*
Textual Interpretation

WRITING PROJECT: Interpreting a Text
Insider’s Example: Student Interpretation of a Text
Sarah Ray, “’Til Death Do Us Part’: An Analysis of Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour”

Artistic Texts

WRITING PROJECT: Creating an Artistic Text

Tip Sheet: Reading and Writing in the Humanities

7. Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences
Introduction to the Social Sciences
Insider’s View: Kevin Rathunde, Social Science
Inside Work: Observing Behavior

Research in the Social Sciences
The Role of Theory
Insider’s Example: Exploring Social Science Theory
Kalervo Oberg, from “Culture Shock: Adjustments to new cultural environments”
Inside Work: Tracing a Theory’s Development

Research Questions and Hypotheses
Inside Work: Developing Hypotheses

Methods
Insider’s View: Kevin Rathunde, Social Science

Quantitative Methods
Qualitative Methods
Mixed Methods
Addressing Bias

Insider’s Link
Inside Work: Considering Research Methods

IRB and Use of Human Subjects

Conventions of Writing in the Social Sciences
Insider’s View: Aya Matsuda, Linguistics

Structural Conventions [IMRAD]
Visual Representations of Data

Other Structural Conventions
Inside Work: Observing Structural Conventions

Language Conventions
Active and Passive Voice
Hedging
Inside Work: Observing Language Features

Reference Conventions
In-Text Documentation
Summary and Paraphrase
Inside Work: Observing Reference Features

Genres of Writing in the Social Sciences
Insider’s View: Aya Matsuda, Linguistics

The Literature Review
Insider’s Example: An Embedded Literature Review
Writing a Literature Review

WRITING PROJECT:  Writing a Literature Review
Insider’s Example:  Student Literature Review
William O’Brien, “Effects of Sleep Deprivation: A Literature Review”

Theory Response Essay

WRITING PROJECT:  Writing a Theory Response
Insider’s Example: Student Theory Response Paper
Matt Kapadia, “Evaluation of the Attribution Theory”

Tip Sheet: Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences

8.  Reading and Writing in the Natural Sciences
Introduction to the Natural Sciences
Insider’s View:  Sian Proctor, Geologist

Research in the Natural Sciences

Insider’s View:  Page Geiger, Biophysics
Inside Work:  Considering a Natural Science Topic

Observation and Description in the Natural Sciences
Inside Work:  Systematic Observation in the Sciences

Moving from Description to Speculation
Inside Work:  Practicing Description and Speculation
Inside Work:  Research Questions and a Hypothesis

Designing a Research Study in the Natural Sciences

Insider’s View:  Michelle LaRue, Conservation Biologist
Inside Work:  Free Write about an Experiment

Conventions of Writing in the Natural Sciences

Insider’s View:  Michelle LaRue, Conservation Biologist
Objectivity
Inside Work:  Looking for Conventions of Objectivity

Repli capacity

Recency
Inside’s Link
Inside Work:  Looking for Conventions of Replicability and Recency

Collaboration and Cooperation

Genres of Writing in the Natural Sciences

Insider’s View:  Page Geiger, Biophysics

An Observation Logbook

WRITING PROJECT:  An Observation Logbook
Insider’s Example:  Student’s Observation Logbook
Kedric Lemon, “Comparing the Efficiency of Various Batteries Being Used Over Time”

Research Proposal

WRITING PROJECT:  Research Proposal
Insider’s Example:  Research Proposal
Gary Ritchison, “Hunting Behavior, Territory Quality, and Individual Quality of American Kestrels”
9. **Reading and Writing in the Applied Fields**

Introduction to the Applied Fields

**What Is an Applied Field?**

*Inside Work: Defining and Solving Problems*

*Inside Work: Considering Applied Fields*

The Rhetoric of Applied Fields

Genres in Selected Applied Fields

**Nursing**

*Insider’s View: Janna Dieckman, Nursing*

*Insider Example: Professional Research Report in Nursing*

Margaret Shandor, Diane Holditch-Davis, Suzanne Thoyre, Linda Beeber, from “Rural African-American Mothers Parenting Prematurely Born Infants: An Ecological Systems Perspective

*Insider Example: Discharge Instructions*

“Discharge Instructions for Heart Attack”

*Inside Work: Nurse for a Day*

**Education**

*Insider Example: Student Lesson Plan*

Myra Moses, “Lesson Plan”

*Insider Example: Student IEP*

Myra Moses, “Student Individualized Example”

*Inside Work: Teacher for a Day*

**Business**

*Insider’s Example: Student Memorandum*


*Insider’s Example: Student Business Plan*

Daniel Chase Mills, “A Business Plan for the Electricity Monitor Company”

*Inside Work: CFO for a Day*

**Law**

*Insider Example: Professional Legal Brief*

From “Fischer v. University of Texas at Austin et al”

*Insider Example: E-Mail Correspondence from Attorney*

Joseph E. Miller, Jr., “Re: Proposed gift to the XYZ Fountation”

*Inside Work: Lawyer for a Day*

**WRITING PROJECT: Discovering Genres of Writing in an Applied Field**

*Tip Sheet: Reading and Writing in the Applied Fields*
PART THREE: READINGS AND ACADEMIC CASE STUDIES

10. Love, Marriage, and Family

Andrew Cherlin, from The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family Today.


Brian Powell, Catherine Bolzehnhahl, Claudia Geist and Lala Carr Steelman, “Change Counts, Counting Change” excerpt from Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans’ Definition of Family.

Susan Saulny, “In Stangers’ Glances at Family, Tensions Linger.”

Academic Case Study: Perspectives on Love


Natural Sciences: Donatella Marazzitit and Domenico Canale. “Hormonal changes when falling in love.”


Writing Projects

11. Crime, Punishment, and Justice

Barbara Bradley Hagerty, “Inside a Psychopath’s Brain: The Sentencing Debate


Clark Merrefield, “Should Juvenile Criminals Be Sentenced Like Adults?”

Abigail Pesta, Abigail “I Survived Prison: What Really Happens Behind Bars

Academic Case Study: Capital Punishment

Humanities: Michael Owen Jones “Dining on Death Row: Last Meals and the Crutch of Ritual”
Social Sciences: Benedikt Till and Peter Vitouch, “Capital Punishment in Films: The Impact of Death Penalty Portrayals on Viewers’ Mood and Attitude Toward Capital Punishment.”


Writing Projects

12. Food, Sustainability, and Social Class


Brent Cunningham, “Pastoral Romance”

Dana Goodyear, “Grub” (The New Yorker)

Michael Pollan, “Why Cook?” (Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation)

Academic Case Study: Genetically Modified Food


Social Sciences: John C. Bernard, Katie Gifford, Kristin Santora, and Daria J. Bernard, “Willingness to Pay for Foods with Varying Production Traits and Levels of Genetically Modified Content”

Natural Sciences: Aziz Aris and Samuel Leblanc, “Maternal and fetal exposure to pesticides associated to genetically modified foods in Eastern Townships in Quebec, Canada”

Applied Fields: Sherry Seethaler and Marcia Linn, “Genetically Modified Food in Perspective: An Inquiry-Based Curriculum to Help Make Sense of Tradeoffs”

Writing Projects

13. Global Climate Change and Natural Catastrophes

Sharon Begley, “Are You Ready for More?”


John Broome, “The Ethics of Climate Change.”
Ted Steinberg, “Disasters and Deregulation.”

**Academic Case Study: Hurricane Katrina**

*Humanities:* Zenia Kish, “My FEMA People: Hip-Hop as Disaster Recovery in the Katrina Diaspora.”

*Social Sciences:* Barbara L Allen, “Environmental justice, local knowledge, and after-disaster planning in New Orleans”


*Applied Fields:* Jacqueline Rhoads, Fave Mitchell, and Susan Rick, “Posttraumatic Stress Disorder After Hurricane Katrina”

**Writing Projects**

**Appendix: Introduction to Documentation Styles**

**Index**