Who Can Help with Your Writing?

Your Instructor
If you have questions about your writing, talk to your instructors. They can help you determine which areas you should work on and offer strategies to help you improve. They may also direct you to other resources on campus—for example, the Writing Center or Writing at Queens website (writingatqueens.org).

The Writing Center
The Writing Center (Kiely Hall 229) offers one-on-one tutoring in three forms: regular appointments over the course of the semester, drop-in appointments, and online tutoring. For more information, see qc.cuny.edu/qcwsw/.

Writing at Queens Website
The WaQ site contains a host of resources to help students with their writing, including handouts on various elements of writing, the process of writing, and links to online guides for writing: writingatqueens.org.

Writing at Queens
Razran Hall 316
718-997-4695
www.writingatqueens.org
What Is a Writing-Intensive (W) Course?

Writing-intensive courses—known as W courses—typically use writing to help students develop their understanding of course materials and concepts. W courses tend to be smaller than non-W courses, so that instructors can devote time and attention to the writing and writing process of individual students. W courses also give students a chance to practice writing in ways that are particular to specific disciplines.

Every student at Queens College must complete College Writing 1 (English 110), the College Writing 2 requirement, and two writing-intensive courses (see the College Bulletin for courses that satisfy these requirements).

There are as many types of W courses as there are fields of academic study—for example, English 165W (Introduction to Poetry), Mathematics 213W (Writing with Mathematica), Psychology 213W (Experimental Psychology), Media Studies 330W (The Music Industry), or Sociology 381W (Senior Seminar). You can expect the following from any W course you take:

- at least 10–15 pages of writing
- at least three writing assignments over the course of the semester
- attention to writing in class
- opportunity to revise your work
- attention to the writing process
- attention to the writing methods specific to the course or discipline.

While there is no one-size-fits-all program of W courses, you should consider the following:

- It will be helpful if you take at least one W course in your major or minor (if offered) because this will introduce you to discipline-specific writing techniques that will serve you well in many of your courses.
- It’s a good idea to take at least one upper-level (300-level) W course. This will give you the opportunity to explore the relationship between writing and advanced thinking in a particular field.
- Choose W courses whose topics interest you. W courses involve a great deal of concentrated writing and thinking. You’re likely to learn more if you’re invested in the course materials and topics.

What Are the Goals of the Writing-Intensive Requirement?

W courses use writing to help students understand course materials and concepts and to gain experience and confidence with their writing.

In the spring of 2007 the Academic Senate established a set of “Goals for Student Writing at Queens College.” These goals will help you understand what your professors want you to learn. No single course will address all the areas emphasized in the goals, but the cumulative experience of your Queens College education is designed so that you will have opportunities to practice them all by the time you graduate.

Your professors have identified four key areas that can help you become an effective writer:

- Elements of Academic Writing (e.g., articulate a focused argument)
- Processes and Methods (e.g., develop ideas through techniques such as outlining and revision)
- Style, Conventions, and Mechanics (e.g., write in clear, controlled prose)
- Discipline- and Profession-Specific Techniques (e.g., use language appropriate to the discipline and audience)

It’s a good idea to familiarize yourself with these goals and think about which areas you would benefit from working on most when you’re deciding which courses to take. You can find the complete list of goals—and the rationale for them—in brochures available at the Advising Center (Kiely 217) or the Writing at Queens office (Razran 316), or on the writingatqueens.org website.

Useful Links

Writing at Queens
writingatqueens.org

College Writing 2 Courses
http://collegewriting2.qwriting.org

Advising Center @ QC
www.qc.cuny.edu/Advising

Center for Teaching and Learning @ QC
ctl.qc.cuny.edu/

Writing Center @ QC: One-on-one, online, drop-in tutoring support
www.qc.cuny.edu/qcwsw/