
Beginning Composition

Course Description

Beginning Composition presents students the opportunity to explore different types of writing – short stories, speeches, non-Western writing, field reports, essays, and research writing. Throughout the course, students explore different cultures and can listen to famous historical speeches as well as experts, such as an art critic, botanist, and archaeologist, discussing their work. Within each unit, students complete a variety of short notebook activities in preparation for longer writing projects at the end of the units. In the final unit, students complete comprehensive revisions of two of these projects. Students have the opportunity to participate in peer review and to interact with their teacher.

Overview

Unit 1 – Explore Fields

- Lesson 1: What Can I Do Here?
- Lesson 2: Genre Introduction
- Lesson 3: Explore
- Lesson 4: Field Report Strategies

Unit 2 – Go East

- Lesson 1: What Can I Do Here?
- Lesson 2: Genre Introduction
- Lesson 3: Explore
- Lesson 4: Writing Strategies

Unit 3 – Hear History

- Lesson 1: What Can I Do Here?
- Lesson 2: Genre Introduction
- Lesson 3: Explore
- Lesson 4: Strategies for Effective Speeches

Unit 4 – Meet Essay Eddie

- Lesson 1: What Can I Do Here?
- Lesson 2: Genre Introduction
- Lesson 3: Explore

Unit 5 – Tell a Tale

- Lesson 1: What Can I Do Here?
- Lesson 2: Genre Introduction
- Lesson 3: Explore
- Lesson 4: Short Story Strategies

Unit 6 – Vacation Virtually

- Lesson 1: What Can I Do Here?
- Lesson 2: Genre Introduction
- Lesson 3: Research Strategies

Unit 7 – Final Destination

- Lesson 1: Specific Revision Roadsigns

Objectives

Students completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Explore and write in a variety of genres, such as fiction, letter, diary, essay, fable, field report, obituary, poetry, and speech.
- Learn to use the stages of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, peer review, and revising) and demonstrate their understanding of them.
- Learn about some of the various strategies writers employ, and practice using them.
- Learn the basic methods of research by planning a vacation using the Internet.
- Experience and imitate writing preferences popular in some non-Western cultures to learn how writing methods and purpose are shaped by the cultures from which they originate.
- Develop a sense of class membership, using the Internet to communicate with the instructor and classmates.
- Give and get peer feedback, and appreciate its value to one's writing.
- Collaborate on a project, learning how to plan, delegate, and compose an assignment working in a cybergroup.
- Increase awareness of the Web as an educational and informational resource.
- Become more comfortable with accessing and gathering knowledge from a variety of technological and other resources.

Activities and Assessments

- **6 Quizzes** – Along with several self-check activities in selected units, students complete at least one computer-graded quiz in five of the seven units.
- **13 Writing Projects** – Throughout the course, students complete nearly 50 notebook activities. At the conclusion of each unit, students will need to complete one or two writing projects. The teacher grades these projects and provides feedback.
- **6 Online Discussion Group Activities** – Within six of the seven units, students may participate in a group discussion of a topic relevant to the material covered.