

Put Your Writing To Work

Writing is a critical life skill, and your mastery of writing will have a tremendous impact on your academic and professional career. Like many skills, the best way to improve your writing is to practice. The following assignment will help you apply many of the writing guidelines and techniques that you have explored in Unit 7 of this course.

Articulating an Idea

In this assignment, you will write an essay for the Try College 101 online course discussion forum. The prompt of your essay is to critically reflect on one of the Learning Outcomes stated at the top of this course. Focus on how you currently use, or how you plan to use, the concepts and strategies that are laid out in the Learning Outcome you choose. Relate these ideas to what you have learned in this course so far, and consider how your achievement of this Learning Outcome will help you succeed in college. Imagine that your audience is a fellow college student, or a high school student who is preparing for college. As you write, review the sections titled “What Do Instructors Really Want” and “The Writing Process” in Chapter 8, Section 2 of your *College Success* textbook. To further support your thesis, cite at least two sources outside your course materials and the *College Success* textbook. As you near the completion of your essay, refer to Chapter 8’s “Checklists for Revisions and Editing” to polish your work. Finally, before you post your essay to the course discussion forum, consult the Essay Review Checklist, below, to ensure that your work meets the standards of an excellent essay.

After you have posted your essay to the discussion forum, read the essays that other students have posted and engage in any follow-up comments. Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with your peers and receive meaningful feedback. In addition to reviewing your own essay before you post it to the discussion forum, you may wish to use the Essay Review Checklist to evaluate other students’ essays as well.

Essay Review Checklist

	Is the essay assignment completed accurately?
	Is the title clear? Does it convey the main topic?
	Does the introduction establish the purpose of the essay?
	Does each paragraph in the body of the essay begin with a transition from the preceding paragraph?
	Does the organization of the essay make sense?
	Is each topic in the essay fully developed?
	Does the conclusion restate the thesis and pull key ideas together?

	Is the length of the essay appropriate?
	Is the vocabulary of the essay appropriate? (E.g. Carefully review your word choice; avoid slang, buzzwords, colloquialisms, or nonstandard English phrasing.)
	Is the grammar and punctuation accurate?
	Is everything spelled correctly? (Manually proofread the spelling of words; do not rely solely on a spell-checker.)
	Is the essay easy to read? Are any paragraphs too short or too long? Is there proper spacing, alignment, and indentation?