

Questions to Help Further Your Understanding of the Department of Writing Arts Core Values

Note: We have put together the following questions to help as you put together your analysis statement. These are meant to help you think about the department's core values. Not all questions will be applicable to you, nor should they be considered a recommended method of organizing your discussion of individual values. They are only meant to help you think further about the core values. Finally, do not forget that your analysis statement should directly reference your portfolio papers to show how they demonstrate the claims you are making about the core values.

The core values themselves are written in [blue](#).

Because writing is a powerful mechanism for creating meaning, implicit within this mechanism are power, responsibility, and deliberate choice. Therefore, the Writing Arts Department values the following for students in the Writing Arts Program:

1. Writing Arts students will understand and be able to apply the conventions of a variety of writing genres and rhetorical concepts.

- *In what ways has your knowledge of and experience with genres increased because of the various genres you have read, produced, and learned about in your WA classes?*
- *How have you developed an understanding of the academic, creative, new media, and non-fiction genres and sub-genres?*
- *Beyond being able to identify genres when you see them, how are you able to describe the unique features of them? For example, could you articulate the features of a successful set of technical instructions? Of literary non-fiction?*
- *What genres do you feel you have particular expertise in as a writer as a result of your WA major?*
- *What relationship do you see between genre and audience? How has the awareness of that relationship impacted the genre choices you make as a writer?*
- *In what ways have different courses in the major emphasized different genres?*

2. Writing Arts students will understand writing and reading within both a theoretical framework and through practical application.

- *What course concepts—for example, “intertextuality”—have influenced your writing or your understanding of writing?*
- *Which writers have impacted your writing most, and how?*
- *What have you learned about how the quality of writing is determined? How does rigorous evaluation of a text extend beyond personal taste?*
- *In what ways have your theoretical understandings of writing and reading been applied directly to your writing?*

3. Writing Arts students will demonstrate the ability to critically read complex and sophisticated text in a variety of subjects.

- *How has reading course texts improved your writing?*
- *In what ways has being well-read in a variety of genres been important to your development as a writer?*
- *If you consider yourself a creative writer, why is reading technical documents helpful?*
- *If you don't consider yourself a creative writer, why is reading creative works helpful?*
- *In what ways have you become a more analytical reader as a result of WA courses?*
- *In what ways—for example, through your free electives—have you furthered your knowledge base through intensive study on a subject(s)?*

4. Writing Arts students will demonstrate self-critical awareness of their writing.

- *In what ways has your writing improved since you began the WA major?*
- *How do your portfolio essays demonstrate what sorts of processes you go through as a writer in creating your work?*
- *How do your writing processes differ for different tasks and situations?*
- *How have instructor comments and peer feedback allowed you to better understand your own writing?*
- *How has analyzing and evaluating the writing of others allowed you to better see your own writing?*
- *How has this major allowed you to become more critically aware of your own writing? For example, can you describe some of the thinking that goes on as you revise and identify specific revision strategies you use?*

5. Writing Arts students will understand the impact evolving technologies have on the creation of written texts.

- *How has your understanding of writing and composing changed as a result of learning new technologies?*
- *What has been the impact of technologies on your writing?*
- *How does your writing change—processes, capabilities, genres, etc.—due to the technology with which you are writing?*

6. Writing arts students will both grasp and appreciate the value of the written word and that such power requires ethical responsibilities in its application.

- *Why is it important for writer's to be aware of this value?*
- *How has your understanding of plagiarism increased over the course of your class work? Has that understanding impacted the rhetorical choices, research methods, or citation strategies you use? How?*

- *What are your ethical responsibilities when joining various discourse communities?*
- *What are your responsibilities as a writer in shaping knowledge and inducing social cooperation?*

7. Writing Arts students will be familiar with the current standards and dynamic nature of the grammar, mechanics, and usage and be able to apply them appropriately.

- *What is your approach to errors in your writing and in the writing of others? How does context influence your approach?*
- *How did the Elements of Language related elective help you to understand this value?*

8. Writing Arts students will be able to discover, investigate, and evaluate information in the creation of text.

- *How have your information literacy skills (basically, the ability to “discover, investigate, and evaluate information,” as stated above) improved as a result of the WA major?*
- *How do you “discover, investigate, and evaluate information” in different contexts?*
- *How have these skills improved your non-academic writing?*
- *How have increased technology skills improved or changed your writing?*
- *How does this value relate to value 6?*

9. Writing Arts students will have knowledge of the professions available to them.

- *What understanding do you have of the professions available to you?*
- *How has the major prepared you to work in these professions?*

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