

Writing in First-Year Seminars

Learning Goals

The first-year seminar is the gateway to a student's writing experiences at DePauw. Proficient writing skills cannot be learned once in a single writing class but must be practiced over time, for many different audiences, in different situations, and in different genres. Because writing conventions vary from discipline to discipline, students should understand the importance of continuing to investigate how to write in new disciplines after their first-year seminar.

By the end of the first-year seminar students should:

- understand the uses of writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating;
- possess flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing, and proof-reading;
- understand how readers perceive and respond to different forms of writing;
- understand a writing assignment as a series of tasks, including finding, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing, and acknowledging appropriate primary and secondary sources;
- understand the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes.

Course Guidelines

1. Instructors should encourage students to understand that *writing is a process and a tool for thinking that can help them learn*

- use appropriate documentation;
- respond to the needs of different audiences by adopting an appropriate voice, tone, and level of formality;
- write with fluency, demonstrating control of such surface features as syntax, grammar, punctuation and spelling.