

Dear Student,

Thank you for taking the AWPE (Analytical Writing Placement Exam). You have placed into English Composition 1: Introduction to University Discourse.

What is English Composition 1?

The goal of English Composition 1 is to orient students to reading and responding to university-level texts. This workshop-style course emphasizes rhetorical reading and summary of academic texts to provide students a foundation for analytical writing.

What will I do in class?

In class, you might:

- Generate ideas for writing through in-class writing or group discussions.
- Workshop essay drafts, giving and receiving peer feedback.
- Practice strategies to revise and edit for composing clearer prose.
- Meet with your instructor to discuss your writing process.

To see a sample writing assignment from Professor Darien Johnson's course, click [here](#). To see a sample reading from Professor Johnson's course, click [here](#).

What kinds of assignments will I have?

You will:

- Practice strategies for reading academic texts.
- Write essays that synthesize and respond to the ideas of authors you have read.
- Demonstrate your understanding of readings through written responses and discussion.
- Select and incorporate evidence from reliable sources into your essays.

Does this placement mean I am a bad writer?

No! Many students who take English Composition 1 took AP courses in high school that involved writing. University-level writing is different from high school writing in many ways. English Composition 1 is meant to prepare you for the specific requirements and expectations of writing assignments at UCLA.

For example, in high school you may have written essays that analyzed or responded to only one text. In English Composition 1, you will learn how to write essays that draw from and respond to multiple texts. In high school, you may not have had time to revise or receive feedback on what you wrote. In English Composition 1, your instructor will be an active partner in your writing process. You will have time to revise and edit your writing so that by the end of the course you will have the chance to put your best writing forward.

In high school, the focus of your writing assignments may have been on summarizing readings. In this course, you will develop your own voice in response to what you are reading.

What do students think about English Composition 1?

Most students who take English Composition 1 report that they found it to be valuable preparation for writing at the university level.

Here are some comments made by students who have taken English Composition 1 at UCLA:

“I feel that this class made me more confident in my writing. This helps me with my writing for other classes.”

“This class has prepared me for college writing with the help of editing. Before I did not know how to edit my previous papers. Now I understand the steps and questions that need to be asked to make sure that my paper is accurate and at its greatest potential.

“This course has greatly prepared me in writing a clearly organized and driven thesis in the fact that now I can organize my ideas to match my thesis and support my argument.”

“This course has taught me how to pull out main ideas and be able to synthesize and relate ideas to other authors and myself.”