

College is more like High school than you think

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Abstract

This essay pertains to those entering their Freshmen year at UNT Dallas. Throughout this essay, there will be paragraphs detailing the process of how to become a better academic writer. Using concepts such as understanding the grading rubric, preparing outlines, asking for help from a professor/writing center, and utilizing credible sources. In addition, this essay will incorporate the correspondence between academic writing in High school and at a College level environment to better demystify Academic writing. The sources implemented in this essay are websites that helped further the understanding of this process.

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We often associate the idea of College as an entirely different learning environment compared to High school. However, a good chunk of the material we learn in High school is later applied to college assignments. Although there might be a few additions to your writing process when composing a college-level essay the majority of steps remain. When approaching your first college-level essay keep in mind to always study the grading rubrics, create an outline, ask for assistance from a professor or writing center, and finally, make sure you use credible sources. Once you make sure to complete these steps it will then give you a better chance at receiving your desired score.

When in confusion, refer to the grading rubric provided by your professor. Not only is a grading rubric a predetermined set of expectations for assignments but it also provides an evident description of what is evaluated. We often tend to breeze through grading rubrics or even ignore them completely. When in reality grading rubrics are our guides to a successful outline and therefore a successful score. Understanding the concept of your essay is pivotal when writing your first college-level essay. Grading rubrics contain handy information regarding the length, topic, format, and number of citations in your essay if any. Whilst there are many formats APA is the official style at UNT Dallas and is required when writing any college-level essay. The APA format is simple and not too far off from the MLA format taught in High school which lowers the possibility of point reduction. Once you have studied the rubric it is then time to formulate an outline.

Gathering your thoughts when composing an essay is essential. An outline not only allows you to visualize but also furthers your understanding of the assigned topic by focusing towards the final form. Especially, when it is your first college-level essay, you want to make sure to clarify all your thoughts and develop ideas into cohesive paragraphs. The concept of outlines is not foreign, we often learn how to compose rough drafts in elementary school and later edit them to receive the desired score. Overall, outlines allow us to be messy with our thought process which then facilitates the revising process. One thing incoming Freshmen can do to meliorate their essay is to reach out to their professor or a campus writing center.

A popular technique used by other college students is the act of reading one's work out loud. This lets us catch incomplete sentences, grammatical errors, and the overall flow of our sentences. Nonetheless, making grammatical errors is common, and therefore asking for help is inevitable. Often, we are fearful of asking for help from our professors, but according to Krista Rizzo, a motivational speaker, we often see asking for help as a weakness, but not asking for help often causes burnout and frustration, which creates a recipe for combustion. Ultimately, knowing when you need help is the most important attribute (Rizzo, 2017). In addition, you can use the Writing Center for help located on campus in case a professor is unavailable.

Last but not least it is crucial to use credible sources when composing a college-level essay. The University of Maryland provides an article pertaining to the steps one can take when considering an article. For example, when searching for a source make sure to find out who the author is, if you cannot tell who wrote that article then it most likely is not a credible source. Moreover, make sure to look for the author's credentials, publication information, website URL, and the date on any source to ensure it is not outdated or irrelevant (University of Maryland, 2020).

By taking these steps into account there is a higher chance of success when citing a source for an essay.

In essence, incoming Freshmen should not view college as an entirely different domain but rather as a similar learning space. College courses may be slightly different, but the process remains such as grading rubrics, outlines, asking for help when needed, and making sure to use credible courses. UNT Dallas has numerous options to ensure the success of every student enrolled, and if students take advantage of these resources, they will most likely succeed.