

Short Writing Prompts (10%)

Throughout this course, we will discuss different genres and rhetorical devices, alongside skills like rhetorical analysis, citation, and research. Although it is important that you learn to write for an academic audience, as you will do in the other major writing assignments for this course (see Rhetorical Analysis Prompt, Synthesis Essay Prompt, and Position Essay Prompt), you will also need to be flexible in your writing, able to adapt to different genres and rhetorical situations. Sometimes, either during the writing process or for a specific audience, you may want to write informally or more conversationally. You may also need to communicate in a shorter format, like a 1-page memo. These Short Writing Prompts are an opportunity to write more informally and consider the wide array of genres in which you might want to write.

For each Short Writing Prompt, you will be given a prompt to which to respond. In response, write **exactly 1 page**, double-spaced. Your writing should reach the end of the page and should not exceed one page, not even by one word. In other words, your document should include only one page with any text on it. Include your name and a creative title at the top of the page.

Remember, this is an informal assignment. You are **not** writing a formal essay. What genre conventions will serve you best in communicating what you want to communicate? In what ways might you break genre conventions?

Be sure to respond to the prompt, and use the space to be creative. You will not be graded for what you write, so long as it responds to the prompt, nor will you be graded for the style in which you write. In other words, while I expect you to use complete sentences and proofread, you do not need to write academically. In fact, some of the prompts will require you to break away from academic writing. Be creative! Explore alternate ways to communicate through writing.

Formatting Guidelines:

Exactly 1 page, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins on all sides.

Important Dates:

- Monday, February 1st: Short Writing Prompt #1 due
- Monday, February 15th: Short Writing Prompt #2 due
- Monday, March 1st: Short Writing Prompt #3 due
- Monday, March 22nd: Short Writing Prompt #4, Part 1 due
- Monday, March 28th: Short Writing Prompt #4, Part 2 due
- Monday, April 5th: Short Writing Prompt #5 due

General Guidelines:

- For each Short Writing Prompt, you will need to carefully consider your audience. Even an informal assignment might have an audience. There are a number of informal genres that are not private. For examples, you might look to social media posts or a letter to a friend. You might also consider your writing as a draft for a more formal piece of writing. In other words, though the essay is informal, you are not writing for only yourself; you are writing with and for others. In addition to me and your peers, who would benefit from what you're writing? Who would you like to read your work? What genre conventions will best serve those goals?

- Be creative!
- Include a creative title
- Follow the formatting guidelines carefully
- You do not need to include outside documents for any of the Prompts except Short Writing Prompt #4, Part 1 and Short Writing Prompt #4, Part 2. If you choose to include an outside source, add a Works Cited to the document and use MLA or APA formatting. Be consistent.

Grading:

You will be graded on:

- Formatting. Do not write more or less than 1 page.
- Creative and thorough engagement with the prompt
- Proofreading

You will **not** be graded on:

- Style. Remember, this is an informal assignment in which you can show creativity and innovation. Think outside the box.
- Level of formality
- The ways in which you choose to engage with the prompt
- Perfect grammar and spelling. While I **do** expect you to proofread, we are all still learning, and you may still make some mistakes. Do your best and ask questions.

Reflection Memos

As you write each Short Writing Prompts, you should consider the genre conventions that will best serve your purpose, as well as your intended audience. In each Reflection Memo, reflect on your choices, the genre you chose, and how you followed or broke from the conventions of that genre. In other words, reflect on how different genres do different work.

In approximately 1 paragraph, reflect on the choices you made in the Short Writing Prompt you wrote the week before. How would you describe the genre in which you're working? Who is the intended audience? What might their audience expect from this genre? What does the student want to accomplish?

Important Dates:

- Monday, February 8th: Reflection Memo #1 due
- Monday, February 22nd: Reflection Memo #2 due
- Monday, March 8th: Reflection Memo #3 due
- Monday, April 12th: Reflection Memo #5 due

Note: There is **no** Reflection Memo #4.

General Guidelines:

- You are your own audience for this assignment, although I will, of course, also be reading each Memo. We often write for ourselves, either privately in a journal or publicly in, for example, a team or project report for a supervisor. Reflective genres, like freewrites and other process documents, can help you better understand your own choices and discover new ways to approach research and writing.

Grading:

You will be graded on:

- Completion
- Attention to genre and the rhetorical choices you made. Beware, by rhetorical devices, I do **not** mean the rhetorical triangle (ethos, pathos, logos). Instead, I mean the ways in which you chose to engage with your intended audience.
- Proofreading

You will **not** be graded on:

- What you say or how you say it, so long as it responds to the previous weeks Short Writing Prompt
- Perfect grammar and spelling. While I **do** expect you to proofread, we are all still learning, and you may still make some mistakes. Do your best and ask questions.