

Dear Future Freshmen Composition Students,

Words of advice from students who successfully completed the Freshmen Composition Series.

1) Dear freshmen English students,

Before you come into freshman English class, learn MLA format. Learning MLA format will save a lot time and points. At the beginning of English I lost many points because I didn't fully know all the rules of MLA. MLA may seem easy to remember but after working hard on your paper, I tend to forget to follow all the MLA rules. MLA can be difference maker between an A paper and a B paper. Not meeting page lengths can also affect your grade by a whole letter. When I'm writing a paper I try to aim higher than the minimum page requirement. So if I fall short, I still have some breathing room. Procrastination can also impacted my grade at times. You will do better on papers if you finish the paper well in advance, then use the rest of time to edit the paper. I used to get B on my papers, until I started doing my papers in advance. The things I wished I knew before taking freshman English was MLA format and how properly cite information. Knowing those two things would have saved a lot of time and information.

2) Dear freshman comp. students,

I learned many helpful tips and tools that can be used in the realm of literature such as synthesis writing, rhetorical devices, elements of fiction and new historicism. The main concern that I had at the beginning of the class was that I would encounter writers block on every paper and fail miserably, I overcame this by brain storming and re-examining the writing. What I wish I had known before the class started was that writing is not always an easy process for every person and that judging your work harshly can sometimes make writers block worse. My advice to the incoming students is to give yourself time, take your time, and love your work.

3) To the future Freshman Composition students,

Be prepared to work hard in an atmosphere that is free and fun for all. Before I entered into the classroom, I was concerned about my writing (although I did well in the first English class) because I did not perform well in my British Literature class my senior year of high school. I was also concerned with the workload because I also had the demands of five to six other classes to meet as well (but that is any college course that you plan to take during your pursuit for your career and professional development) and I was worried that I would not do so well. I am here to tell that if you ask the teacher to work with you, she will. It is not an easy class, but you will be glad that you have had the experience of a good learning atmosphere. Whatever you put into the class is what you are going to get out of it. Also, please be sure to take advantage of any

opportunity that is provided for you, such as extra credit because not many teachers will offer it throughout the semester. Lastly, attend all of your classes because it will cost you your grade if you do not show up, especially for this one. Just because you are considered to be “grown” does not mean that you do the same things that you did in high school. It means owning up to your responsibilities as a young adult and taking responsibility for your actions. So overall, take advantage of any opportunity provided to you, attend class, and ask any questions if you need help. It is provided to you for a reason. HAVE FUN! Prosper.

4) Hello future freshman,

One thing I have to say is always prioritize! School comes first. There will always be parties and events going on around campus so there is not really much you are missing out on. Some of the fears I had before taking this class is not excelling in my essays. I wanted the reader to understand my arguments more clearly and even though I am not at the place I want to be, this class helped me master in certain steps that will help me reach my goal. Now that the class is over, I have read all of my reviews on essays and one thing that I wish I would have done is outline my essays. Writing off the top of your mind is not always the answer. It is important to have structure and flow in your writings to keep the reader interested and as least confused as possible. I would advise you, future freshman, to always take advantage of opportunities that will help you enhance your college career whether it is extra credit, organizations or even conversations with different authorities. You never know when you need a couple extra points in class, a group of friends who want to see you succeed or even advice from a person who was once in your shoes. Freshmen year will not be easy but always remember to stay grounded and prioritize.

Good Luck!