

# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**



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1. The instructor wants me to “dumb down” my writing. I just write over his head, so he gives me a bad grade.



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2. The instructor is so obsessed with grammar that she doesn't grade me on the *content* of my writing. I'll bet she spends all her time reading style manuals and grammar handbooks. What a weirdo!



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3. I've been out of school for a long time. There's no way I can catch up with the rest of the class. This is going to be horrible.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

4. It's hard to write long papers. There's no way I'm going to be able to fill all this empty space.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

5. Only English majors are good at writing. There's some trick to this that they get and the rest of us don't understand.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

6. You will fail a paper if you screw up just one citation. I do my own work, but I'll probably fail due to an honest mistake.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

7. I suck at writing. I'm a  
math/science/art/mechanical  
person.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

8. The instructor won't let me base my persuasive essay solely on the Bible/Koran because she's an atheist and has something against Christians/Muslims/Jews.



# Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing

9. Spelling and grammar don't matter in the *real* world. I have a blog with thousands of readers, and nobody corrects my spelling on that.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

10. This is college, and I pay for the class, so I should be able to come when I please. As long as I pass the assignments, I should pass the class.

That's how they do it in universities.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

11. I went to a crappy high school, and I never learned much about writing. There's no way I'll ever be good at it.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

12. As long as I get a “C” for this class, I’ll pass. There’s no reason to try any harder than that because it doesn’t matter.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

13. If I come to class regularly and complete all of the assignments, I should pass the class. I don't understand why some students have to fail just because they have a hard time with writing.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

14. The instructor gets off on failing students because of his ego.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

15. The instructor doesn't realize I have other classes, a family, and a job in addition to this class. It's not fair to ask us to do reading and writing outside of class. She doesn't understand what it's like to be a student.



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16. Peer review is stupid. The people in the class don't know any more about writing than I do. What can they tell me about my writing that I don't already know?



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

17. The teacher barely looks at the papers before he grades them. He just throws them down the stairwell and gives grades based on where they land.

Grading essays is completely subjective.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

18. I got “A’s” on my papers in high school, so I’ll get “A’s” on papers in this class if I do the same level of work.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

19. I already know how to write, so this course is a waste of my time.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

20. There's nothing wrong with starting a paper with a question or a dictionary definition.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

21. I'm majoring in a science-related field. There's no reason for me to have to learn writing.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

22. I get a “D” on the paper,  
and all the teacher marked  
wrong is grammar and  
spelling. He didn’t even pay  
attention to what I had to say.



# **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

23. So what if I write like I  
talk. That's just my style.



## **Myths about Freshman Composition and College Writing**

24. People who are good at writing can sit down and write something wonderful on the first try. They don't have to go through all these drafts like I do.

It's just not fair that they have it so easy and I have such a hard time.