**Was I Taught to Write?**

**Purpose**

Your goal for this reflective essay is to answer the question: Was I Taught to Write? Please consider your past experience with writing instruction, your strengths, weaknesses, and how your writing has improved over time or did not improve. You should reference specific papers and courses from your past academic and professional life. You will choose to focus on different aspects of your writing past depending on your experiences: teachers, jobs, school, parents, mentors, assignments, for example.

Your essay should provide an answer to the question “Was I Taught to Write?” that makes sense to you and that helps you come to some conclusions about how you have learned and might continue learning. An outside reader should also finish your essay with an understanding of the way that a literate person accumulates knowledge and puts it in to practice.

At the end of the semester, you’ll revise this paper to include your impression of this writing course: Did your experience this semester confirm your initial impression about writing or change it?

**Readability Assessment**

As a part of your writing reflection, you will check the readability statistics for any available papers. Readability is a mathematical equation that determines the grade level or reading ease level of your writing. Readability does not say whether you are a strong writer or not; however, it is a measure of complexity.

**In order to complete this project, you will need to:**

* Find digital copies of at least four papers (more is better) from writing classes you took previously or any writing that you have done for any purpose (resume, cover letter, blog post). Ideally, you should find examples of your writing from a few consecutive years, 9-12 grade for example.
* Readability statistics on your work.
* Decide how your past experience with writing, your writing examples, the readability statistics come together to prove your answer to the question: Was I Taught to Write?

**Readability Instructions for Microsoft Word**

Here are some instructions and helpful links to help you get your readability statistics in Microsoft Word (desktop version). If you’re using Word Online, you’ll need to find a readability assessment tool on the web or plan on using ASC or Writing Center computers on campus. Here’s a site you can use: <http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php>

Open a document in MS Word.

Click the File tab, and then click Options.

Click Proofing.

Under “When correcting spelling and grammar in Word,” make sure the Check grammar with spelling check box is selected.

Select: Show readability statistics.

After you enable this feature, check the spelling. When Outlook or Word finishes checking the spelling and grammar, it displays information about the reading level of the document.

**Helpful Readability Links**

<https://www.rfp-templates.com/What-is/Readability-Statistics>

<https://www.rfp-templates.com/What-is/Readability-Statistics#Flesch-Kincaid_Grade_Level_Formula>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYQ9CbHBnq0>

**Formatting**

Your document should be typed in 12-point font; standard font (Ariel, Calibri or Times New Roman) all margins should be one inch; the essay should be double-spaced. Essays have a beginning, middle and end, and paragraphs help you and your audience organize ideas. List your readability statistics at the top of your paper in chronological order. Helpful sections in your textbook include: any section in the Strategies section, 329+, especially the chapter “Beginning and Ending,” 331-343. “Writing a Literacy Narrative,” 83-93, is also helpful. This reflective paper should be about 2-3 pages. Refer to your textbook for other standard formal writing conventions. Refer to the Content Section in Falcon Online for model papers. Please refer to the DSC Writing Rubric for assessment specifics.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Writing Projects are evaluated holistically from Weak, OK, Good, to Excellent among the following categories. You can find detailed feedback on your work in the Assignments Folder and in Grades.

* Writing project has a clear message/thesis
* The reflection makes logical sense
* The reflection is supported by evidence and analysis
* References to original source material are formatted correctly
* Writing is organized
* Writing is clear
* Writing is correct
* Writing has a clear voice and style
* Fulfills assignment requirements (reflection, analysis, readability statistics)

**Revision Opportunity and Due Dates**

Check the Calendar in Falcon Online for due dates. The first due date is for peer review, which will take place in a Discussion. Afterwards, you’ll see a due date for submission in the Assignments folder. At the end of the semester, you will revise this paper for your Portfolio and inclusion as part of a Class Paper, which we will work on together at the end of the semester. At the end of the semester, you’ll add this semester’s writing and readability statistics to your paper and (maybe) revise your answer to the question: Was I taught to write—in this class?