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# Written Communication

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Salt Lake Community College | General Education

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## Written Communication (EN) at SLCC

1000-level: Introduction to College Writing

2000-level: Intermediate College Writing, Technical Writing, or Honors Writing

## Why is EN Required?

Written Communication (EN) has been a core skills general education requirement for college students across the United States for over 100 years. EN courses prepare students for academic reading, writing, and information literacies. EN is a foundation from which students build the ability to successfully adapt to different reading and writing experiences in college, the workplace, and the community.

EN courses build students' awareness of themselves as readers, writers, and members of a college community.



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## Written Communication

You might be surprised to learn that, around the year 1890, **Harvard University** became the first college to require Written Communication for all of its students. This general education requirement spread quickly across the country because academic writing (and reading) skills have always been central to college success. In fact, scholar David Bartholomae writes that the Written Communication requirement “represents a distinctively democratic ideal: that **writing belongs to everyone.**”

In the years since, professors and researchers have determined four concepts that—**in addition to lots of practice**—college students need to grasp in order to become proficient and fluent readers and writers:

*Writing Is a Social and Rhetorical Activity:* We write for **audiences**, within **contexts**, and for certain **purposes**. As these aspects of a writing situation change, we must make different writing choices for them.

## What Do You Think?

1. How do you figure out what to do when you have a writing assignment? What strategies/resources do use or where do you turn to for help?
2. How do you decide what is important or credible information about an issue or topic?
3. How do you feel about sharing your writing and asking for feedback? What do you do with that feedback when you receive it?
4. Lots of people say that the acts of reading and writing make them tired or exhausted. How much stamina do you have for them?
5. Do you think of yourself as a writer? Why or why not?

*Writing Speaks to Situations through Recognizable Forms:* Audiences have **expectations** that writers need to **anticipate** and attempt to fulfill. For example, an essay will have paragraphs; a proposal will have a problem and a potential solution; instructions will have numbered steps. These forms are how we **make sense** of writing.

*All Writers Have More to Learn:* **No one ever stops growing** as a writer. When we write something new, we learn something new about writing, and, sometimes, about ourselves.

*Writing Is Always a Cognitive Activity:* Writing is **a form of thinking**. It requires complex problem-solving including invention, planning, memory, delivery, revising, sometimes starting over...all while critically reflecting on the writing task. No wonder it makes a lot of people tired.

Your required Written Communication courses will take you through these concepts by providing you with many different reading and writing experiences. You'll receive **individual attention** from your professors to help you develop these college literacies and **get you ready to succeed** in your classes, in your education, and in your career goals.

(APA) Bartholomae, D. (2000). Composition. 1900-2000. *PMLA*, 115(7), 1950-54.  
(MLA) Bartholomae, David. "Composition. 1900-2000." *PMLA*, vol. 115, no. 7, 2000, pp. 1950-54.

