



Literacy Symposium – Spring 2015

What Transferable Skills do Students Need to be Successful in College?

UCF Department of Writing and Rhetoric

Presenters:

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Overview:

This presentation is about considering some of the skills that students are asked to do in high school and how they transfer to what we are asking students to do in the first-year writing course in college. Our examples and discussion will focus on some of our goals as a department here at UCF with regards to the teaching of writing. We are part of the Outreach Committee in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric so please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions about our approach to teaching Composition or if you would like to be informed about upcoming workshops/roundtable discussions.

Skills/Concepts

A Rhetorical Approach to Analyzing Texts:

- Students consider the term “text” in all of its variations and that all texts are authored.
- Use concepts such as *exigence*, *audience*, and *constraints* to analyze how authors construct arguments.
- Become better rhetorical readers of texts.
- Look at how writing works in discourse communities and how genres are created and used.

Research as Inquiry

- Students learn what it means to enter into an academic conversation through scholarly research.
- Engage in previous research and text within the context of a particular discourse community.
- Be able to engage with other texts and authors through the analysis of claims and arguments, while presenting their own claims and hypotheses.
- See knowledge as being constructed through academic discourse and inquiry and how students can be a part of that discourse.

Peer Review: The Pros and Cons

Is it time to reconsider peer review in the classroom? Is it a skill that transfers satisfactorily from high school to the college classroom?

Some Considerations

The benefits of peer review:

- students receive feedback on their drafts
- students can observe other students' approaches to an assignment
- students can more easily correct in their own papers the errors found in another's

The drawbacks of peer review:

- students receive mixed reviews on their drafts
- students don't trust the feedback of a classmate
- students are unwilling to offer criticism

Questions to Consider:

How is peer review a transferable skill?

Peer editing vs peer review: What's in a name?

What is editing? Is that what we are asking students to do?

Honing peer review skills: What can we do in the classroom.?