

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing Instruction Between Disciplines

Writing is an essential part of the learning process, regardless of discipline.

It is not just a form of assessment, but a form of pedagogy. Using written assignments in your courses is not about students learning to write (though that is a byproduct), but about **students using writing to learn**.

ACTIVE PEDAGOGY

Writing instruction is an active form of pedagogy. It benefits teachers as much as students because it engages all of your students. It helps you better gauge student progress, better monitor their strengths and weaknesses, and see gaps in instruction.

RETENTION

Students learn something better by writing about it because learning through writing aids a student's retention. As an active form of pedagogy, it allows a student to interact with the material she studies in a way that better cements that material in her knowledge base.

DEPTH

Learning through writing aids a student's depth of knowledge on a subject. It disciplines thinking, and allows space to explore and wrestle with a topic and its vocabulary, rather than just rote memorize and recall information.

CRITICAL THINKING

Learning through writing develops critical thinking and inquiry skills--a crucial competency that spans all disciplines, as well as professions beyond the classroom. Writing about a topic requires investigation and questioning, allowing students to think critically on content.

SOCIALITY

Writing is a process *and* a social activity. By giving and receiving feedback on their writing, students engage their ideas with those of their peers. The process of writing socializes ideas, giving students space to share and compare their understanding with others.

OWNERSHIP

By writing to learn, students take ownership of their understanding. The process of writing requires students to take responsibility over the material, and to have a point of view on that material, promoting independent thinking.

RESOURCES

Want to learn more about writing across the disciplines, how it pertains to your specific course, and find available student writing resources? The Director of Liberal Studies and Communications is available for consultations with individual faculty. **Contact Emily Thompson at ethompson@baypath.edu** to set up a meeting.