



The First-Year Writing Program

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In First-Year Writing (FYW; WRA 101), students are invited to orient themselves to their educational journeys (at MSU and beyond) and to discover how their experiences as writers, learners, and language users can be useful in this journey. Our curriculum for WRA 101 is sequenced and scaffolded through five major projects, so that each writing experience builds toward the next.

We recognize that many students enter MSU as exploratory majors, and that many change their majors during the course of their path to degree. One of the major projects is a **Disciplinary and Professional Literacies Project**, designed to support students as they explore either the major they have declared and plan to pursue or the major or profession they're interested in joining. The project invites students to learn about the writing practices of a discipline or profession of their choice by conducting inquiries into those practices by gathering writing, analyzing texts, and interviewing professionals and practitioners about their writing and communication strategies.

FYW classes are designed to support each student in developing transferable writing knowledge, strategies, and skills. We focus on supporting our students' development as writers by encouraging them to build *capacities for continued growth and future writing*. The final course project, a **Final Reflection**, invites students to archive and assess their present learning experiences, and to set goals for future learning.

In First-Year Writing classes, students can expect

- to put their histories, experiences, and prior learning to work in imagining possible futures
- to work closely with their fellow learners in developing their writing
- to learn ways of approaching writing tasks that will serve them well in their majors, careers, and life beyond MSU
- to discover and articulate their educational goals through a series of structured inquiries into their own learning, cultural values, and academic literacies
- to understand the uses of writing for learning, reflecting, taking action, and/or making meaning
- to acquire the means to be life-long makers of knowledge through writing

Our goal in FYW is to ensure that students learn approaches to learning (and learning through) writing that will assist them in continuing to learn and continuing to write—throughout their MSU experiences and beyond.

For more information, please see wrac.msu.edu or contact Professor Julie Lindquist (lindquill@msu.edu), Director of the First-Year Writing Program in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures.