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Writing in the Disciplines Workshop

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Gathering Exercise

As you get situated, take a few minutes to complete this activity.

- Using the sticky notes, try to break down the writing skills students need to learn to succeed within your discipline.
  - One skill per note.
- Post your notes under your discipline on the whiteboards.
  - Order does not matter.
Writing in the Disciplines: From XCOR 1000 to XCOR 3000

Dr. Jason Todd
Associate Director for CAT+FD

Dr. Richard Peters
Faculty Director of the Core Curriculum
Alphabet Soup

• **WAC: Writing Across the Curriculum**
  – Blanket term for institution-level pedagogy to “integrate writing across departmental boundaries.”

• **WTL: Writing to Learn**
  – The use of **short, informal writing tasks** to help students learn and reinforce concepts and ideas.

• **WID: Writing in the Disciplines**
  – Writing instruction and assignments that stress the discipline-specific conventions and practices.

• **WI/WIC: Writing Intensive Courses**
  – Writing at all levels of instruction & across the curriculum. Students produce & revise various forms for different audiences in different disciplines.
Reflective Writing

5 minutes

Purpose:
- To pause & consider how we developed the writing skills that are by now second nature to us.

Task:
- Write for five minutes on the following topic:
  - How did you learn to write like a member of your academic discipline?

Assessment:
- Your writing will be evaluated based on the level of effort I see what you have written.

Not really!
"WID assignments are *typically, but not exclusively*, formal documents prepared over a few weeks or even months. The final documents adhere to format and style guidelines typical of the professional genres they are helping students learn about. Teachers comment primarily on the *substance* of these assignments, but teachers also expect students to meet *professional standards* of layout and proofreading."

*Source: The WAC Clearinghouse*
https://pollev.com/jasontodd770
Skill Sets Exercise

- Go to the stickies from another discipline.
  - The more different from your own, the better.
- Try to rank the order of importance of that discipline's skill sets.
  - Which skills are most critical for student/future success in that discipline?
XCOR 1000: Reflecting

- Students are encouraged to start thinking creatively about situations and events that may or may not be familiar to themselves and/or their experiences.
- WTL
  - Blogs
  - Freewriting
  - Reflective writing
  - Opinion pieces
  - Journals
XCOR 1011/1012: Reasoning

• Students begin to transition to scholars as they interact with academics based literature and develop the habits of writing necessary to succeed in academic spaces.

• WTL
  – Reading journals
  – Response papers
  – Annotations

• WID
  – Lab/field reports
  – Position papers
  – Literature reviews
**XCOR 3010/3020: Representing**

- Students are challenged to use writing to effectively interpret diverse sources of information and to establish defensible positions.
- **WID**
  - Research papers
  - Grant proposals
  - Position papers
  - [https://pollev.com/jasontodd770](https://pollev.com/jasontodd770)
CCE Writing-in-the-Disciplines Saturday Workshop

- During this half-day workshop, Xavier faculty will learn about best practices for teaching discipline-specific writing, will explore the diversity of writing tasks expected of students in different disciplines, and will begin to develop/adapt a major writing assignment to help students learn these skills.
  - Saturday, March 3, 2018
  - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (Lunch provided)
  - Mellon Seminar Room (LRC 532B)
  - Limited to 9 faculty members
  - Participants will be compensated $250