

GHS Writing Standards

9th-12th Grade Seminars

New writing standards...why?

- So students understand common expectations from class to class at GHS
- So “writing” isn’t just seen as something that needs to be done well in the English classes
- So our students are meeting the Common Core Curriculum Writing Expectations
- More than anything else . . . SO YOUR WRITING SKILLS IMPROVE!
- So you are not embarrassed by your writing (because you don’t want that . . .)

Weird AI says it all ...

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Gv0H-vPoDc>

So what do we have to do...

- Meet the writing assignments minimum check list in the areas of:
 - 1) **Focus** – the response answers the question or addresses the prompt
 - 2) **Support** – the response uses relevant content to support the answer
 - 3) **Format** – the response includes a heading at the top of the page
 - 4) **Grammar** – the response is written in standard English without excessive errors

So what does this mean for us?

- **IT MEANS THAT . . .**

In order for your assignment to be graded, you must meet these standards.

If your assignment does not meet these standards, your work will be returned to you without a grade.

What does FOCUS mean?

- It simply means that your written response is addressing the question or the prompt that the instructor is asking you to address.
- In essence, you are NOT putting a bunch of “fill” in to make it seem longer
- *Example:*

Question: Provide several examples of common compounds that are formed through ionic bonding.

Answer: Many compounds are formed through ionic bonding. For example

What does SUPPORT mean?

- Support means that you are using relevant content; So it's not just "I think _____", but "I think _____ and here's what supports my thoughts." OR better yet, leave out "I think" and write with confidence, "This is how it is and here's what supports my claim."
- *Example:*

Question: Explain why the Civil War was fought.

Answer: The Civil War was fought for many reasons which differ depending on the perspectives of the participants. For example, from the Southern perspective, the Civil War was fought to preserve their way of life and institutions. Historian George Tindall explains, "The social fabric of the southern states was so tied to . . ."

Unacceptable Answer: To free the slaves.

What does **FORMAT** mean?

- The response includes a heading at the top of the page with name, date, and assignment name
- Seems obvious but for short responses, this might not need to be so formal; MLA citation would require (in the upper left hand corner):

Joe Hackett

Mr. Smithsonson

U.S. History

27 August 2014

What does GRAMMAR mean?

- You are actually using standard English to communicate your thoughts, not Tweet or Text-Speak!
- PUNCTUATION! CAPITALIZATION! AND DOES IT MAKE SENSE? AIN'T AIN'T IN THE DICTIONARY.
- *Example of unacceptable work (writing like you talk):
“it says, like in the reading, I think . . .”*
- *Example of unacceptable work (misspelled words):
“ther are many examples of unacceptible work”*
- *Example of unacceptable work (incomplete sentence):
“Which is the cause of the Civil War.”*

Philosophy Behind This

- If we do not allow students to re-do work, we deny the growth mindset so vital to student maturation, and we are declaring to the student:
 - This assignment has no legitimate educational value
 - It's okay if you don't do this work well
 - It's okay if you don't learn this content or skill

None if this is acceptable to the highly accomplished, professional educator.

- Rick Wormeli

NEED HELP?

- GHS Writing Lab:
- Room 15 (between Ms. Loucks & Ms. Whisenand)
- You can be ASSIGNED THERE by a teacher for whom you are working on a writing assignment
- You can get a pass ON YOUR OWN from Study Center to get help
- Bottom Line: Use it to get help so you can meet the expectations that you will have in all of your classes