





English Language & Writing Skills (ENGL) 155

Developing Writing Skills (Revision 14)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#)  with [eText](#) 

Credits: 3


Area of study: No Area of Study

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: None

Challenge: ENGL 155 is not available for challenge.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Notes: The [English Language Studies Assessment](#)  test is designed to help students understand their strengths and weaknesses in English and guide them to the most

appropriate course(s).

Overview

ENGL 155 is designed for students who require a preparatory course in writing skills. The major objective of the course is to improve students' reading and writing abilities so they can succeed at the post-secondary level. Students will expand their vocabulary, increase their ability to analyze complex text, and improve their writing skills. The course includes paragraph and essay structure and a systematic grammar review.

Outline

The course consists of the following eight units, each of which includes three lessons (grammar and mechanics; word study; and writing):

- Unit 1 - (introduction)
- Unit 2 - (paragraph writing)
- Unit 3 - (summary writing)
- Unit 4 - (process essay)
- Unit 5 - (comparison/contrast essay)
- Unit 6 - (cause-effect essay)
- Unit 7 - (argumentative/persuasive essay)
- Unit 8 - (personal essay and review)



Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

- Shape their writing in accordance with audience and purpose

- Use effective theses and topic sentences to focus on main ideas
- Use effective organization and linking devices to develop ideas coherently
- Use acceptable grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Use appropriate and effective vocabulary

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for ENGL 155, you must complete all the assignments, achieve a minimum grade of D (50 percent) on the final examination, and achieve a composite course grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** . The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Diagnostic Essay/Review	Complete/ Incomplete
Assignment 2: Paragraph Writing	7.5%
Assignment 3: Summary Writing	7.5%
Assignment 4: Process Essay	10%
Assignment 5: Comparison/Contrast Essay	10%
Assignment 6: Cause-Effect Essay	15%
Assignment 7: Argumentative/Persuasive Essay	15%
Assignment 8: Personal Essay (includes Reflective Journal Assignment)	15%
Online Quizzes	Complete/ Incomplete


Activity	Weight
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Materials

Lipschutz, Gary, Sandra Scarry, and John Scarry. *The Canadian Writer's Workplace*. 8th ed. Toronto: Nelson Education, 2017.  (eText)

Brians, Paul. *Common Errors in English Usage*. 3rd ed., William, James & Co., 2013.  (Print)





eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on [electronic textbooks](#), please refer to our [eText Initiative site](#).

Other Materials

All other materials are available online through the course home page. [English Language Support](#) materials are available online.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 14, February 2, 2023

Updated July 8, 2024

View [previous revision](#) 
