Essay Writing 1 – BBNAN20700, 2021 spring

FROM SENTENCE TO COMPOSITION - ONLINE

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**Class**: Tuesday 10.15-11.45, either in Building Z 317 in person or on Zoom (link in Teams Posts before the class)

**Office hour:** Tuesday 9:00-9:30 via Teams.

**Course materials, assignments:** at the group’s MS Teams platform

**Official / individual communication:** via Teams. Please use the @NAME or @GROUP NAME for communication that may or should be visible to all. Please use the chat function to reach out to peers or professors in private.

**Purpose**:

* To help students develop their writing skills and prepare for the final exam at the end of the third year (the Proficiency Composition Task is a 300-350-word well-organized opinion/argumentative essay produced in 45 minutes) – or for writing effective blogposts 😊 for EDZine.
* To gain courage and confidence in writing, critical thinking and gently but honestly commenting on others’ work.

**Methods**: During the course, we are going to analyse several types/parts of essays, scrutinize student papers, and work in co-operating pairs/groups.

**Conditions of the pass mark at the end of the term:** active participation in class, writing the mock exam paper, achieving at least 60% of the maximum score: 120 points, minimum score: 72 points.

Mock paper 20 points

Individual home papers (4x20) 80 points

In-class activity (7x2+1) 15 points

Team essays (2x10) 20 points

altogether: 135 points

**Attendance:** you may skip up to three classes (for whatever reason) – except the mock exam. However, the number and the quality of your papers will determine your grade. From now on you will have to produce a 300-word composition every week (altogether 5). The **class May 4 will be the mock exam** in Teams when you will have to compose an argumentative essay in academic style within a given time limit.

**Tentative schedule:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **week** | **date** | **planned in-class activity** | **due for the class in the given row** |
| 1. 1 | Feb 9 | Intro to the course,  Intro to positive commentary  Write a descriptive/narrative essay in class  Brainstorming, audience | - |
| 1. 2 | Feb 16 | Explore the text: thesis, title  Essay genres / types & ways of argumentation,  The steps of the writing process |  |
| 1. 3 | Feb 23 | Structure, outline – how to plan it fast?  Check balanced team essays in class | write a balanced essay of 300 words in a team |
| 1. 4 | March 2 | Paragraphing: topic + support  Topic sentence, thesis, title, 5 paragraphs (Poe), discussion of team essays (balanced)  Check argumentative team essays in class | write an argumentative essay of 300 words in a team |
| 1. 5 | March 9 | Special paragraphs: Introduction, Conclusion  Write an argumentative essay of 300 words by yourself (#1) s |  |
| 1. 6 | March 16 | End weight, achieving emphasis  Sound more positive  Check individual argumentative essay in class | write an argumentative essay of 300 words by yourself (#2) |
| 1. 7 | March 23 | Transitions: linkers, movers, connectives  Check individual argumentative essay in class | write an argumentative essay of 300 words by yourself (#3) |
| 1. 8 | March 30 | Easter break |  |
| 1. 9 | April 6 | Easter break |  |
| 1. 10 | April 13 | individual tutorial via Teams (20-30 mins/person | those attending the tutorial: submit assignment #4 by 13 April 6am |
| 1. 11 | April 20 | individual tutorial via Teams (20-30 mins/person | those attending the tutorial: submit assignment #4 by 20 April 6am |
| 1. 12 | April 27 | individual tutorial via Teams (20-30 mins/person | those attending the tutorial: submit assignment #4 by 27 April 6am |
| 1. 13 | May 4 | Mock Exam: write an argumentative essay of 300-350 words (either in class or as a 45 min. Teams Assignment) | - |
| 1. 14 | May 11 | mutual feedback, grades | - |