WPA Outcomes and Habits of Mind

Rhetorical Knowledge

* Learn and use key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts
* Gain experience reading and composing in several genres to understand how genre conventions shape and are shaped by readers’ and writers’ practices and purposes
* Develop facility in responding to a variety of situations and contexts calling for purposeful shifts in voice, tone, level of formality, design, medium, and/or structure
* Understand and use a variety of technologies to address a range of audiences
* Match the capacities of different environments (e.g., print and electronic) to varying rhetorical situations

Critical Thinking, Reading, and Composing

* Use composing and reading for inquiry, learning, critical thinking, and communicating in various rhetorical contexts
* Read a diverse range of texts, attending especially to relationships between assertion and evidence, to patterns of organization, to the interplay between verbal and nonverbal elements, and to how these features function for different audiences and situations
* Locate and evaluate (for credibility, sufficiency, accuracy, timeliness, bias and so on) primary and secondary research materials, including journal articles and essays, books, scholarly and professionally established and maintained databases or archives, and informal electronic networks and internet sources
* Use strategies—such as interpretation, synthesis, response, critique, and design/redesign—to compose texts that integrate the writer's ideas with those from appropriate sources

Processes

* Develop a writing project through multiple drafts
* Develop flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing
* Use composing processes and tools as a means to discover and reconsider ideas
* Experience the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes
* Learn to give and to act on productive feedback to works in progress
* Adapt composing processes for a variety of technologies and modalities
* Reflect on the development of composing practices and how those practices influence their work

Knowledge of Conventions

* Develop knowledge of linguistic structures, including grammar, punctuation, and spelling, through practice in composing and revising
* Understand why genre conventions for structure, paragraphing, tone, and mechanics vary
* Gain experience negotiating variations in genre conventions
* Learn common formats and/or design features for different kinds of texts
* Explore the concepts of intellectual property (such as fair use and copyright) that motivate documentation conventions
* Practice applying citation conventions systematically in their own work

HABITS OF MIND

• Curiosity – the desire to know more about the world.

• Openness – the willingness to consider new ways of being and thinking in the world.

• Engagement – a sense of investment and involvement in learning.

• Creativity – the ability to use novel approaches for generating, investigating, and representing ideas.

• Persistence – the ability to sustain interest in and attention to short- and long-term projects.

• Responsibility – the ability to take ownership of one’s actions and understand the consequences of those actions for oneself and others.

• Flexibility – the ability to adapt to situations, expectations, or demands.

• Metacognition – the ability to reflect on one’s own thinking as well as on the individual and cultural processes used to structure knowledge.