

The Write Way

"Master the Word and You Shall Master Your World"

A Northwest Vista College Publication from the Centers for Academic Reading and English Support (CARES) in Juniper Hall

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March 2013 Brings Spring Break & Easter

March 2013 brings us several events this month such as St. Patrick's Day, the beginning of Spring, and the Easter Holiday, but none are so greatly anticipated as Spring Break. This year it is scheduled from the 11th through the 17th for all Alamo Colleges.

The faculty and staff from NVC's Center for Academic Reading and English Support (CARES) remind students to use this time to relax and take a well-deserved break from their studies. However, we ask that students do so in a safe and responsible manner. Recent auto fatalities in the San Antonio area involving students have already marred this school year, so we ask our students to heed the old adages: **If You Drink, Don't Drive!** and **Watch Out for the Other Guy!**

Spring Break is also a time for those students who have fallen behind in their studies to catch up with reading and writing assignments, and perhaps even to take a look ahead at what is pending for the rest of the semester such as final essays, projects, and exams.

Meanwhile, Spring Break will end March 17th, which is also St. Patrick's Day. This feast day celebrations allows for everyone to join in honoring Ireland's patron saint, and also affords us all the opportunity to be Irish for a day (See Page 2).

March 21st will see the official beginning of Spring when both day and night will be of the same length. Many cultures around the world also observe this day in ritual worship. The month concludes with the Easter Holiday that will be observed by Alamo Colleges from Good Friday on March 29th through Easter Sunday on March 31st.

So, enjoy the March festivities, be safe, and we'll see you back on campus ready to end the semester in style and success!



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The CARES Labs

The College English Center

JH216 Mon -Thurs: 8AM-9PM

Fri-Sat: 9AM -2PM

Developmental English Lab

JH229 Mon -Thurs: 9AM-9PM

Fri - Sat: 9AM -2PM

Developmental Reading Lab

JH110 Mon -Thurs: 9AM-5PM

Advocacy Center

JH308 Mon - Thurs 8AM - 7PM

Visit us at:

<http://www.alamo.edu/nvc/tutoring/cares/>



English 1301 +

New English Course Debuts This Semester at NVC

There is a new and exciting English course here at Northwest Vista College debuting this semester that will help our students satisfactorily complete their College English course requirements at a faster, but effective pace.

"The English 1301+ is a new accelerated course that NVC is piloting this semester. Students who are close to being ready for college reading and/or English, can enroll in a 1301+ class instead of taking a stand-alone developmental English and/or reading class" explains Caroline Kuyumcuoglu, Director of the Center for Academic Reading and English Support (CARES).

In addition to attending the three credit hour 1301 course, Kuyumcuoglu notes that students

must also go to the English Advocacy Center located in Juniper Hall, Room 308, once a week and meet with the English and Reading Advocate or Skills Specialist on staff to work on their assignments, brush up on their grammar and writing skills, and reflect on their course work.

Meanwhile, NVC English faculty instructors Isaac Hinojosa and Justin Stephens are piloting this new course for the Spring semester with three sections and this does include a Flex 1 semester this Spring.

However, NVC hopes to have quite a few more sections available for the 2013 Fall semester. If you are a student who is interested in this new course, please visit the Advocacy Center right next to the Math Lab on the third floor of Juniper Hall.

Wise Up With *The OWL* from Purdue University

For several years now, Purdue University has led the way across the country in establishing and maintaining one of the most useful websites in higher education when it comes to English composition and research.

Commonly called *The OWL* (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>), the Purdue Online Writing Lab provides answers to some of the most vexing questions when it comes not only to grammar and style, but inquiries about MLA (Modern Language Association) citations used in English composition as well.

Subjects addressed on this particular webpage include:

- General Writing
- Research and Citation
- Subject Specific Writing
- English as a Second Language

Additionally, there are various Power Point Presentations and lab exercises that will help students (and teachers too!) with questions concerning English composition and literature writing assignments.

St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick Was Not Irish? Holy Schnikes!

It may come as a surprise, but St. Patrick was not Irish. He was born in Kilpatrick, Scotland to a wealthy Romano-British family around 387 CE. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. His given name was Maewyn, and as a teenager he was a pagan.

At sixteen, Maewyn was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During this time he learned to speak Celtic and absorbed Irish culture. As a slave, he became a Christian “by the calling of God” and took the name of Patrick. He was a slave for six years until he heard the “voice of God” urging him to escape. He made his way to England where he studied to become a Catholic priest, and later was appointed a bishop.

Patrick became a Christian in every way during his training and had a dream to return to Ireland to convert the pagans to Christianity. He became very successful in converting the Gaelic Irish pagans to Christianity, but he also met with opposition. He spent much time in prison for opposing the Druid priests, but this did not stop him from trying to convert all of

the Irish to Christianity. He had a special talent for winning converts, and he traveled throughout Ireland baptizing and establishing monasteries, schools, and churches. His work with the Irish and Ireland lasted for thirty years. Patrick died on March 17, 460, and was buried at Downpatrick. This day is still celebrated in his honor.

Once you’ve reached the website listed above, you can navigate through numerous topics, but the one that is most visited and useful to ENG 1301 and 1302 students is the MLA Guide in the Suggested Resources tab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). This section will not only answer all of your questions when it comes to documenting your in-text citations and the Works Cited page, but it also features the most recent edition of MLA requirements.

Meanwhile, *The OWL* also provides sample essays and works cited pages so that students can compare their essay assignments with what is required in English composition. For those students enrolled in other English classes such as World, British, or American literature, The OWL has a webpage titled “Writing in Literature” (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/4/17/>) that addresses that type of writing. Subjects include:

- Literary Terms
- Writing About Literature
- Writing About Fiction
- Writing About Poetry

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and his feast day was established as a religious holiday in the 10th Century. It has become a worldwide celebration of Irish history and culture. This is the most inclusive holiday of all holidays because everyone is an honorary Irishman on St. Patrick’s Day.

In today’s world, St. Patrick’s Day has brought about some facts and legends to celebrate what are commonly known as St. Patty’s Day. Below are a few fun items about St. Patrick and the Irish that have been adopted for today’s celebrations:

- The actual color of St. Patrick is blue. Green became associated with St. Patrick’s Day during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legend, was worn by fairies, immortals, and also people, to encourage their crops grow.

Of course, even better than the OWL is the College English Writing Center (JH 216) here at Northwest Vista College where qualified and experienced tutors are ready to help you. Numerous writing and grammar handouts are also available and free to all students.

So if you have a question about your writing assignment and cannot make it to our Writing Center, get wise with *The OWL* online.



• In Chicago, on St. Patrick’s Day, their rivers are dyed green, and many people wear green on this day to avoid being pinched.

• The first St. Patrick’s Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737, where many Irish immigrated.

• A leprechaun is an Irish fairy that looks like a small, old man, often dressed like a shoemaker. Legend says leprechauns are grumpy, untrustworthy, and tricky. If someone catches a leprechaun, they can force him to reveal where he has hidden his pot of gold.

• The number three is Ireland’s sacred and magical number, and the shamrock is an important symbol because of this number. The three leaves mean faith, hope, and charity. St. Patrick used the Shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Shamrock is also lucky and is worn on one’s lapel on St. Patrick’s Day.

• Today, New York’s St. Patrick’s parade is the longest running civilian parade in the world.

English Essay Assignments Can Be Confusing: We Can Help!

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series on English Composition Writing Assignments)

With the spring semester well underway, English Composition students have already worked on and completed at least one or two of their required writing assignments. We're sure that your instructors have explained in detail what it takes to complete these various assignments.

However, if you are having trouble understanding some or all of them, the College English Writing Center (JH-216) stands ready to help with tutoring services as well as with various essay writing assignment handouts. This month we will discuss those elements needed to compose a Cause and Effect, Compare and Contrast, and Argument and Persuasion essay.

Perhaps the best advice for all writing assignments is found in the old adage: **Show, Don't Tell**. What this means is show the reader what you are talking about by using descriptive words that incorporate all of the senses. Don't just tell the reader that you went to the store and on the way there you witnessed a car accident. Explain to the reader what time of day it was, describe the circumstance that led to the accident, note if anyone was hurt or if there were there any fatalities, as well as how you felt about it all.

When citations are required, be sure to back up your thesis throughout your paper with information gleaned from your research, and be sure to cite it according to Modern Language Association (MLA) requirements.

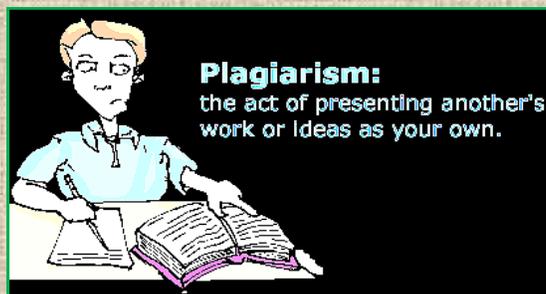
Let's start with the **Cause and Effect** essay. This is one that requires looking for connections between different elements. It also analyzes the reason for those connections that determines the cause and effect.

If you are researching global warming in South Texas, first explain to the reader what global warming is in general, and then establish evidence of global warming in South Texas. The effect portion of this essay would be to explain the effect global warming is or is not having in South Texas. Typical questions the writer should be asking themselves are:

- What are the causes of X?

- What led to X?
- Why did X occur?
- Why does X happen?
- What would the effects of X be ?

Some useful transition words in a Cause and Effect essay would include **because, consequently, therefore, for this reason, and as a result**. Remember to state the purpose in your thesis and explore all causes and effects as well as use concrete evidence. Be sure also to summarize and draw effective conclusions based on your thesis and research.



Meanwhile, another writing essay you may be assigned in English Composition is **Compare and Contrast**. This assignment paves the way for the understanding of a subject by comparing it to another. It requires that you discover the similarities of the subjects you have selected. Contrasting is based on finding the differences, and it is applied to two items that have something in common.

Questions that are typical of a Compare and Contrast essay include:

- How does X differ from Y?
- Compare X and Y.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of X and Y?

To begin work on a Compare and Contrast essay assignment, first draft a thesis choosing items in the same category. Introduce the subjects and your reason for comparing and contrasting them. Be sure to include limits of discussion, and do not use broad subject such as racism, the economy, or politics.

Be specific about your subjects; for example, racism in South Texas, the economy in Bexar County, or the landscape of politics in San Antonio. Also keep in mind that your subjects require a balance, which means that you need to make sure each of your subjects is dis-

cussed equally.

In writing the **Argument and Persuasion** essay, you will have to remember that an argument is an appeal to your reader's reason and intellect. The persuasion part names a purpose for writing.

Also remember that persuasion propels all writing to some degree and it appeals to reason, emotion, a sense of ethics, or some combination of them.

Once you have decided on the topic you will be arguing, establish your argument by writing a debatable thesis and justify the significance of the issue.

The thesis will need to be narrow or focused, and you may use various types of claims such as fact or definition, cause and effect, value, or claims about solutions or policies.

Organize your argument by using what is called the Toulmin Method. This is a common and easy formula for organizing an argument that includes:

- **Claim:** The overall thesis the writer will argue for,
- **Data:** Evidence gathered to support the claim,
- **Warrant or Bridge:** Explanation of why or how the data supports the claim, which the underlying assumption that connects your data to your claim,
- **Backing or Foundation:** Additional logic or reasoning that may be necessary to support the warrant,
- **Counterclaim:** A claim that negates or disagrees with the counterclaim, and
- **Rebuttal:** Evidence that that negates or disagrees with the counterclaim

It is important to choose effective, credible research and evidence for your thesis. Organize the essay effectively, but be sure to also use appeals of logos, ethos, and pathos to press your argument and persuade the reader.

When it comes time for a conclusion, finish your paper with a summary and recommendations.

(Up next in the April issue of The Write Way: The Descriptive, Definition, and Process Analysis essays.)

Need Help Waking Up for School or Work?

Are you looking for that cup of caffeine in the morning? Most people need some type of caffeinated drink in the morning. While there are some positive effects to consuming caffeine, be aware that there are negative ones, too. Two to three cups of coffee a day will usually not hurt anyone. However, many college students look for energy drinks or coffee to help stay awake to study, or meet a deadline

for an assignment, and too much caffeine can have negative effects on our bodies. For example, caffeine can increase the heart rate, cause dizziness, shakiness, dehydration and acid reflux. It can even cause an addiction, and believe it or not, caffeine addicts can suffer from caffeine withdrawal! Caffeine withdrawal can cause severe cluster headaches caused by denying the body the caffeine it has become used to

to consuming. Caffeine does not quench thirst, so drink water to stay hydrated.

Be informed; learn how much caffeine is in the food and drinks you consume (see chart below). If it is too much, cut back a little at a time to decrease the withdrawal symptoms. Use the chart below to see if you need to cut back. Some soft drinks do not contain any caffeine.

Caffeine Chart

Product	Serving Size 1	Caffeine (mg)
<u>OTC Drugs</u>		
NoDoz, maximum strength; Vivarin	1 tablet	200
Excedrin	2 tablets	130
NoDoz, regular strength	1 tablet	100
Anacin	2 tablets	64
<u>Coffees</u>		
Coffee, brewed	8 ounces	135
Coffee, instant	8 ounces	95
Coffee, decaffeinated	8 ounces	5
<u>Teas</u>		
Tea, leaf or bag	8 ounces	50
Tea, green	8 ounces	30
Tea, instant	8 ounces	15
<u>Soft Drinks</u>		
Mountain Dew	12 ounces	55
Surge	12 ounces	51
Diet Coke	2 ounces	47
Coca-Cola	12 ounces	45
Dr. Pepper, regular or diet	2 ounces ⁴¹	
Sunkist Orange Soda	12 ounces	40
Pepsi-Cola	2 ounces	37
Guarana sodas	12 ounces	30
Barqs Root Beer	12 ounces	23
7-UP or Diet 7-UP	12 ounces	0
Minute Maid Orange Soda	12 ounces	0
Mug Root Beer	12 ounces	0
Sprite or Diet Sprite	12 ounces	0
<u>Caffeinated Waters</u>		
Java Water	1/2 liter (16.9 ounces)	125
Krank 20	1/2 liter (16.9 ounces)	100
Aqua Blast	1/2 liter (16.9 ounces)	90
Water Joe	1/2 liter (16.9 ounces)	60-70
Aqua Java	1/2 liter (16.9 ounces)	50-60

Grammar LOL

Ever wonder why the English language can be so hard to understand? Read the following sentences from *Random House* and you'll know why!

- Besides is other than; beside is next to.
- One emigrates from a place; one immigrates to a place.
- Bears are grizzly; crimes are grisly.
- Coats go on hangers; planes go in hangers.
- An ordinance is a law; ordnance is ammo.
- A tick bites; a tic is a twitch.
- Troops are military; troupes are theatrical.
- Something centers on something else, not around it.
- A flair is a talent; a flare is an emergency signal.
- One insures cars; one ensures success; one assures people.
- Prophecy is a noun; prophesy is a verb.

See what we mean? Cheer up because practice will make perfect and our CARES labs can help!



LEARN I MUST...



Searching for Sugar Man Garners Hollywood Move Honors

There's nothing more exciting than awards season. All the glitz and glamour of the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild and the Oscars had me glued to the television. Not only was the fashion on point this season, but so were the films.

There were so many excellent documentaries to choose from this year, but the one that stood out above all the rest was the winner for best documentary, *Searching for Sugar Man*. Directed by Malik Bendjelloul, this documentary is about Mexican-American singer and songwriter Rodriguez.

Producers discovered Rodriguez playing dive bars in Detroit, Michigan in 1968 and no-

ticed he had developed quite a following. They were mesmerized by Rodriguez's soulful melodies and mysterious presence.

They thought they had stumbled upon the Chicano Bob Dylan, perhaps even greater. The producers then helped Rodriguez create what they thought was a masterpiece album entitled *Cold Fact*.

Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, *Cold Fact* was a commercial disaster. Soon after the dismal failure of his record, Rodriguez slowly fell out of the spotlight. Then, unbeknownst to anyone in the United States, let alone Rodriguez, a bootleg copy of *Cold Fact* found its way to South Africa. What

came after that was nothing short of a story taken from a movie script. I highly recommend viewing this film; especially if you're a music lover. *Searching for Sugar Man* will leave you in awe of Rodriguez: the man, the myth and the legend.

Recipes for Student Success

Ever wonder what it takes for a student to succeed in academics? Here's a recipe that may help you reach that success.

- 1 adult,
- ½ cup of generosity
- ½ pound of confidence
- ½ cup full of creativity
- ½ bushel of truthfulness
- Dash of experiences
- Pinch of imagination
- ½ teaspoon of friendship
- Pinch of risk
- ½ cup of self confidence
- ½ pound of positive attitude
- Bake at room temperature

Mix generosity, confidence, and creativity until blended. Draw truthfulness from life's experiences. Add a pinch of imagination. Mix friendships together. Add a pinch of risk. Add self confidence in a medium container and take a close look at it. Blend all the ingredients together, with a positive attitude. Toss in the oven and bake at room temperature. Serve one to four happy, hungry students!

Handouts for Literature Assignments Now Available in JH216

If you're enrolled in a World, British, or American literature class and are having problems understanding the assigned essays, free handouts on this subject are now available in the CARES College English Writing Center located in Room 216, Juniper Hall.

While grammar, mechanics, and research citations remain the same when writing about literature, there is a difference. It includes a subject-specific approach to writing in general about literature, fiction, theater plays, and poetry.

There are also literary terms that you must become familiar with in order to understand and succeed in this type of writing for literature classes.

According to The Owl at Purdue website, upon which all of these handouts on writing about literature are based, an essay on literature presents some unique differences, which can cause trouble for the unprepared writer such as the literary analysis.

- The literary analysis essays may discuss:
- How the various components of an individual work relate to each other,
 - How two separate literary works deal with concepts and forms, and,
 - How concepts and forms in literary works relate to larger aesthetics, political, social, economic, or religious contexts.

A mistake commonly made with literature

writing assignments is that students often retell a story, poem, or play. This is not what the professor or instructor is asking for because they themselves have read the story, poem or play numerous times as students and then as educators. What they are asking for is your analytical interpretation using one or more of the examples listed above.

So you see, there is more to writing about literature than the writing you learned in your prior English composition classes.

For more information about the various writing assignments in literature classes, visit our Writing Center for tutoring services, or stop by and select a handout that will help with this type of academic writing.



The CARES Newsletter Staff for March 2013 was comprised of English Composition, Developmental Reading, and Writing instructors and tutors.

Layout, Design, and Editing
By:
Caroline Kuyuncuoglu,
John Schulze,
and
Butch Cárdenas