

English Composition I: Middlesex Community College Dual Enrollment Course SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

The only way you learn to write is by writing. No one can teach you how to write; others can only create a situation in which you learn for yourself from what you are doing.

-Peter Elbow and Pat Belanoff

This is the practice school of writing. Like running, the more you do it, the better you get at it.

-Natalie Goldberg

Course Description

English Composition I includes prewriting, writing, and revising essays of exploration, analysis, persuasion, and research. This course emphasizes reading and informal writing as methods through which ideas are developed.

This course gives students an opportunity to develop their writing skills in a writing community consisting of their instructor and their classmates. Focusing on the writing process itself, students will be encouraged to discover their subject and the best way to express their ideas about a subject within the conventions of standard written English. Through a variety of informal writing tasks, discussions and analysis of readings, and formal writing assignments, students will improve their thinking, reading, and writing ability. Writing well is a process that takes time and effort no matter what one's initial ability level may be.

Students who have elected to take the Lowell High School – Middlesex Community College Dual Enrollment course, English Composition I will be **required** to complete a summer reading and writing project.

REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg

YOUR TASK

Throughout the summer you will complete a series of journals based on the suggested journaling/writing exercises in Natalie Goldberg's Writing Down the Bones.

REQUIREMENTS

*Students are to complete **8 journal entries** based on the suggested exercises throughout the text. (One journal entry from each of the 8 sections)

Section 1: (p. 1-31)

Section 2: (p. 32-61)

Section 3: (p. 62-92)

Section 4: (p. 93-121)

Section 5: (p. 122-132)

Section 6: (p. 133-151)

Section 7: (p. 152-163)

Section 8: (p. 164-180)

*Each journal entry should be **1-2 pages** in length typed, double-spaced, 12 point font.

*Each journal entry should be clearly labeled with **student's name**, **section number**, **chapter of the reading**, and **date** written in the upper left hand corner.

*Each journal entry should have a **title** centered at the top of the page.

DUE DATE

All journal entries are due on the **first day of class** and they are expected to be neatly organized in a folder or small binder.

Dual Enrollment English Composition I Summer Journal Writing Rubric

Category	Excellent 5	Very Good 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Score
Completion of Suggested Exercises	Student explores writing suggested in exercises and demonstrates deep thinking which clearly relates to content in assigned portion of the text	Student explores writing suggested in exercises, incorporates suggested techniques and strategies and shows some insight	Student explores writing suggested in exercises but lacks evidence of deep thinking or critical thought	Student attempts exercises but work is general	Student did not follow suggested exercises	
Effort	Student's response is very detailed	Student's response has some details	Student's response is limited in detail and depth	Student's response lacks any detail or depth	Student did not put forth effort to complete most journals	
Organization	Journal entries are logical and effective	Journal entries are logical and effective with a few minor mistakes	Journal entries are somewhat illogical and confusing in places	Journal entries lack logical order and organization	Student did not attempt to write a logical and organized paper	
Mechanics	Student uses grammar, spelling, word order, punctuation, and capitalization, paragraphing correctly	Student usually uses grammar, spelling, word order, capitalization, paragraphing and punctuation correctly	Student has some problems with spelling, word order, punctuation, paragraphing, and capitalization	Student has significant number of errors in grammar, spelling, word order, paragraphing punctuation, and capitalization	Student has so many errors that the assignment is difficult to understand	

Total _____