

Peer Writing Tutor Guide for *Writing Across Disciplines*

Discipline	Should	Should Not	Unique Characteristics	Citation format
AMST	-have similar format to sociology/history papers	-mix tenses (check with professor for preferred tense) -use personal voice	-interdisciplinary nature -reliance on different types of sources	flexible
CLASSICS	-concentrate on literary analysis -deemphasize personal ideas -maintain consistent perspective and tense -cite heavily from primary text -incorporate historical background		-impact of audience or reader perspective on interpretation (drama, etc)	unspecified
CREATIVE WRITING	-keep audience in mind -use concrete, specific details - build tension: deliberate hints leading toward a surprise/twist ending -guide piece with one overarching idea/theme -use concise language -reveal characters' feelings through their actions	-rely on inner monologues to reveal characters' feelings -overuse adjectives/adverbs -use ornate, philosophical, or flowery language	-very flexible, subjective, and personal	none
ENAM	-state a clear thesis at the end of the first paragraph -support thesis with textual evidence -relate every paragraph to thesis statement in strong topic sentences -make smooth transitions -be attentive to diction and word choice; be concise! -integrate quotes in a variety of ways -use present tense -paraphrase unless it is the language of the quote that is important rather than its content -balance analysis and evidence	-use passive voice -use first person (although this can vary by professor) -use the same sentence structure throughout -have an overly broad introduction -use words or literary devices with which you are unfamiliar -overuse rhetorical questions -summarize the plot	-make sure to consider translation when writing about foreign literature -use this structure: a specific <i>introduction</i> proceeds to a dynamic <i>conclusion</i> that broadens the original question	MLA
ENV. SCI			-importance of external research and support	varies by professor

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FMMC	-use present tense		-there is specific film terminology -be careful of misuse and awkward phrases -give context or describe scene rather than citing minute and second	not necessary to cite a specific scene
Foreign LIT	-follow suggestions for ENAM	-use flowery language: flowery diction can be convoluting, especially when just learning a language	-explain the “obvious” -situate works in the proper context (this could be historical, cultural, etc.) -be mindful of international language structure and essay format	-cite both the original and the translated work carefully
HARC	-use specific terminology - prove a clearly articulated personal/original thesis -include discussion of artistic context, i.e. time period and style -use secondary literature about art -analyze all works of art formally -transparent structure	-maintain a single tense throughout: when describing a work, use the present tense; when discussing an artist or a movement, use the past tense	-can occasionally be interdisciplinary	-Chicago -footnotes for citations, definitions, and extra-topical information
HIST	-emphasize facts over opinions while acknowledging that opinion has a basis in fact -employ a strong structure reliant on evidence -use past tense for historical events and present tense for historians’ arguments			-cite accurately! -differentiate between primary and secondary sources in bibliography
MATH	-focus on truth-value (irrefutable knowledge) rather than opinion -have proper ratio of words to symbols -have a strong emphasis on rigorous, logical explanations and arguments -have very high word: information ratio -use figures or diagrams when appropriate -use specific, technical language	-use flowery, grandiose, or “fluffy” language	-use of symbols or abbreviations instead of words -first person –often first person plural – is accepted and encouraged as opposed to the first person singular	- no formal citation format; use LaTeX

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MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -address difference in terms of genres: jazz, classical, rock... -form follows content and is thus often subjective -synthesis of history, analysis, insight, and performance 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -subject-specific vocabulary and descriptive perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -be aware of possible complications and consider the record label, the lyricist, and the director in addition to the performer
PHIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -have a specific structure -use the introduction as a roadmap -include flexible analysis and interpretation -work within a theoretical framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use florid language 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chicago (footnotes)
PSCI and ECON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -be direct and objective -have a strong and creative thesis -have a strong structure that follows thesis rigidly -logical flow of ideas must always support the argument -have an argument rooted in theoretical basis and backed up with data or case studies -explicitly or implicitly treat the counter-argument -use headings and subheadings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use flowery language -overuse quotations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -first person is rare in ECON but strictness of this stand varies by professor -PSCI can be both theoretical and mechanical or more interdisciplinary depending on professor and course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -varies
PSYCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -deemphasize personal opinion -focus on research -support argument with data, evidence, and/or case studies -paraphrase rather than quote -use primary sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use flowery language -use the word “prove” 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -APA format

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RELG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -rely on evidence -show, don't tell – prove with quotations -use third person -define key terms, like "God" -maintain objectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use contractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -often interdisciplinary: can incorporate literature, sociology, art, philosophy, and music -free form (within reason) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -varies by professor
SCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -focus on truth-value (irrefutable knowledge) rather than opinions -acknowledge limitations and alternate interpretations of data: key phrase: "these data suggest..." -be concise -use headings and subheadings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use flowery prose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -check lab report format with individual professor -pay close attention to format, and do not deviate from expected layout -many professors allow the writing style suggested in <i>A Guide to Writing About Biology</i> or <i>A Guide to Writing about Chemistry</i>, available in CTLR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -citations deemphasized because there is no room for interpretation -cite results of proofs or derivations rather than proofs -give credit but don't re-explain methodology
SOAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -have a strong thesis -weave in theory -use the third person, although first is sometimes acceptable -distinguish between questions that do or do not belong in that discipline -use specific terminology 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -tense is flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MLA or APA; varies by professor