

## ENG 180

Welcome to Western's Writing Program. We recognize writing as influenced by complex intuitive, cognitive, rhetorical, social, and ecological processes that develop through social acquisition, training, and reflective practice. Our curriculum is built around five Guiding Principles: Language is social—and so is writing; Writing is work that involves play; Thinking, reading, and writing are intimately connected to each other and to identity; Writing concepts and practices are transferrable; Community is important to the process of writing. Please visit our [website](#) for more on our Guiding Principles.

### Catalog Description

**180 College Writing I. (3) (General Education/ Communication Skills)** Study and practice of writing as a social act with emphasis on rhetoric and genre. All sections taught in computer labs. Graded A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, F. IAI: C1 900.

### Course Goals and Objectives

English 180 is the first in a sequence of required writing courses at Western Illinois University. In English 180, you will be introduced to writing as a social activity with the goal of providing you with the knowledge you need to learn how to write.

#### Writing Processes

- You will test and adapt writing processes (invention, drafting, revision, and editing strategies) to meet the demands of varying genres and rhetorical situations.

#### Discourse Communities

- You will explain the role of discourse communities in shaping genre and rhetorical choices and will demonstrate those choices in various public writing contexts.

#### Rhetorics

- You will identify and analyze the elements of the rhetorical situation (exigence, audience, and context) and will apply knowledge of the rhetorical situation and rhetorical strategies to composing your own texts.

#### Genres

- You will understand how genre functions as a typified response to a recurring situation with emphasis on appropriate application of that genre knowledge.

#### Critical Thinking, Reading, and Research

- You will use critical thinking, reading, and research strategies to compose texts that participate in ongoing conversations, from both academic and extracurricular communities, with special emphasis on integrating your ideas with field research and appropriate secondary sources.

For more information on these objectives, please see [Western Writing Program Objectives](#).

### Placement and Timely Completion

If you were placed in English 100 during orientation/registration, you must pass 100 before you are eligible for 180. Students not placed in English 100 are welcome to take the course to improve their chances of succeeding in English 180. When students have not completed English 180 before they are classified as sophomores, they are automatically blocked and cannot withdraw from the course without the permission of the Director of Writing. The Director can unblock students if their instructors certify in writing that those students have made a good faith effort to pass the class that semester. Once students are unblocked, they must still withdraw from the class on their own.

## University Writing Center

The University Writing Center offers students at any academic level collaborative, one-on-one consultation on writing projects from any discipline at any point in the writing process. For more information, visit the [University Writing Center website](#).

## Grades

In English 180 you can earn a grade of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, or F. If you receive a U or an F in 180, you must repeat the course in order to fulfill the Communication Skills requirement. Instructors determine the grading scales used to assign grades; you must earn at least a 73 (C) in order to pass the class. The Western Writing Program has established the following guidelines for U and F grades:

### U Grades

If you are not performing satisfactory work but are making a good faith effort to pass the course, you can earn a U (unsatisfactory) grade. You will earn no grade points or credits for a grade of U. However, the U grade is not a penalizing grade because it is not calculated in grade point average (GPA).

We consider a good faith effort to include all of the following:

- attending and participating in class,
- completing and submitting all components of major papers (bibliographies, drafts, and other materials required by instructors), and
- completing assigned reading and other assignments in a timely fashion.

If you meet requirements but are still not writing at a C or better level at the end of the term, you should receive a U grade for the course. The U grade reinforces our belief that writing is a process that requires considerable time and effort. We believe students who attempt to do the work but fail to meet our standards should not be penalized, but should be permitted to retake the course and continue to improve their writing abilities.

### F Grades

If you are not making a good faith effort, you should earn an F (failing) grade. You will earn no grade points or credits for a grade of F. Because the F grade is a penalizing grade, which negatively affects GPA, it is reserved for students whose effort is unsatisfactory for one or more reasons:

- poor attendance and participation,
- failure to complete and submit all components of major papers (bibliographies, drafts, and other materials required by instructors), or
- academic dishonesty.

If you choose not to complete course assignments and/or disregard course requirements, you should receive an F grade for the course.

An I (incomplete) grade may be given only when you fail to complete course requirements due to documented circumstances beyond your control. The mere failure to complete an assignment does not justify the recording of an incomplete, unless illness or other emergency is the cause. Incomplete grades are given at the discretion of the instructor.

## Academic Dishonesty

Dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, course assignments, alteration of records, or illegal possession of examinations is considered cheating. It is your responsibility not only to abstain from cheating but also to avoid making it possible for others to cheat. Any student who knowingly helps another student to cheat is as guilty of cheating as the student he or she assists. The submission of the work of someone else as one's own constitutes plagiarism. Academic honesty

## ENG 180

requires that ideas or materials taken from another source for use in a course paper or project be fully acknowledged. Multiple submissions, “when one intentionally or knowingly submits substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without the explicit authorization of both instructors,” are also a violation of the [academic integrity policy](#).

### **Final Examinations**

The final examination is considered one of a course’s scheduled meeting periods. A course in which a final is not given must still meet during this time. Please see the WIU [final exam schedule](#).

### **Attendance**

The Department of English supports the right of individual faculty members to penalize you for attendance problems, provided the policy and penalties are described in the course syllabus.

This handout, along with your instructor’s syllabus, has been prepared to help you understand what you’ll be doing in your ENG 180 class. You should read both carefully, ask questions about any points you don’t understand, and keep both for future reference.