



What's college writing really like?

College writing varies greatly depending on your chosen courses and field of study. In a history class, you might write a research paper on political corruption and the fall of the Roman Empire. In your biology class you might write a lab report on the mating cues of *Largus californicus* (these are bugs). In your marketing class, you might develop a campaign to sell “healthy” soda to consumers who value wellness but also really really like Doritos and Coke. In short, you will be writing a lot of different kinds of things.

We know that a “college paper” is an imprecise concept, and that all of our writing depends on the context or “the writing situation.” We can’t practice every kind of writing you might write in college and beyond in one year or one semester, but we can practice in a way that supports your ability to size up and take on new writing tasks, and to create your own. The first-year writing requirement aims to prepare you to take on this wide variety of college writing tasks by practicing all parts of the writing process—from forming your ideas, drafting, getting and giving feedback—moving between different kinds of writing, and reflecting on your work as you do.