



What sorts of things do we write in a first-year WRI class?

Every first-year WRI class is a little bit different. We know, we know—we’ve said that a lot. But despite the differences, one thing that is true of any writing class at WFU is that you will practice several different kinds of writing, and will think about how and why they are different as you do.

Also, all the writing classes are designed around specific topics, or “themes,” and you will get to choose the topic that most interests you. One writing class might be about queer narratives in popular culture, another about fashion, another about the prison industrial complex, another about AI, another about the rhetorics of music. These variations are expressions of our program’s interdisciplinarity, the rich and complex field of Writing Studies, and your professor’s particular passions and expertise. Find a full list of the themes and descriptions being offered next semester at writingprogram.wfu.edu under the “courses” tab.

The kinds of writing you will do, the conversations you will take part in, and research you will undertake, will be different depending on the theme. Students in two different WRI 111 classes, for instance, might find themselves with very different assignments: a student in one writing class might write a personal narrative about how they use language in the communities they grew up in, while a student in another writing class might write and record a podcast about how to build communities of color in SIMS online. Or build a digital archive of oral histories of first year students going through the rush process in fraternities. Or revise the website for a local animal shelter their class partners with. Or . . .

As you write in different ways, you will practice skills that will be useful in other academic writing you will do throughout your college study. You will also probably write about writing: you may reflect on your own development as a writer in a discussion board post, or write a cover letter addressed to your professor about what you think is going well and what challenges you faced in a particular piece of writing, for instance.

