

WRT 307 Mid-semester evaluation

Fall 2014

Directions: The mid-semester eval helps us assess what's currently working and not working in the course. I will read all of your responses carefully, identify trends or patterns, and write a committal letter detailing changes we'll make (which will need to be approved by you). To get started, enter the above URL into your browser and answer the questions as fully as you can in the time allotted. (Or, if you find the co-writing process chaotic in Google Docs, you may answer these questions in a word processing program first and cut and paste them here.) You may also "like" your classmates' responses by tallying this next to their answers or writing additional comments.

1. How have you integrated audience analysis into your writing process at this point in the course?

I'm more conscious of who my writing is intended for. By that I mean who would actually read something in the genre of what I'm writing, not just Jason. x5

I make sure that when I am writing professionally that I know who is the intended audience and how I can persuade them to be interested in my purpose.

Audience analysis is very important and I always keep in mean who I am writing for and why.

My writing becomes more attuned to the concerns of the reader and audience, and to respond more to their interests.

Weird example: I've started posting my class notes online to one of those sites that pays you for them. Since I started doing that, I've noticed my formatting/abbreviations/general note-taking style change, because I know other people are reading them and not just me.

2. Discuss the extent to which collaboration has supported or challenged your approach to writing assignments to date.

The collaboration has challenged my approach to writing assignments because I typically procrastinate and write at the last minute, and with collaborative work this isn't really possible. x4

Collaboration makes it easier to collect ideas and see writing from a different approach than my own. x3

collaboration helps to facilitate my approach because it brings in an alternative perspective - which may both support and critique my work for improvement.

Collaboration has challenged my approach to writing assignments as it is very hard to get in contact with some group members at times x3

The collaborative nature of this course has supported my writing because I can get almost instant feedback on what I have written, whereas in other courses I would have to wait until my work has been graded to receive any feedback.

Collaboration has supported my writing because it is a second pair of eyes on the content and that can improve it through edits.

3. To what degree do you feel the instructor has supported your learning so far this semester? Please explain.

Very supportive. Is willing to be very helpful and meet with students outside of class. x3

Very supportive and approachable x8

e. x5

Detailed responses on all assignments in the form of comments. X2

The conferences were very helpful, especially since our grades aren't on BlackBoard so it's hard to keep track of how we're doing. X4

Always provides multiple examples on almost all, if not all, the assignments. x3

4. Would you recommend any changes to the course at this point?

I don't think its necessary to watch the entire Helvetica movie, the point was made in 20 minutes.

^ Agree with the person above me -- I thought you said we were only going to watch part of it, but we ended up watching pretty much the whole thing. Maybe picking two or three interviews from each "side" would be a better use of time. X3

Not introduce multiple assignments at the same time. x1

Better spacing of assignments. We had two due on one day and haven't had any due for a week or two. x6

Having the current assignment on the course website. Not all of them at once.

Better incorporate the readings into classes... I feel like the readings give more depth but they aren't necessary given that you don't refer to them hardly at all in class. This may also give a nod to your teaching, that you explain things in well enough detail that a reading isn't a

necessity to understand a given process or task. But now I've bought a book that I hardly read, and don't really know if that's a good or bad thing. x3

^ditto haven't cracked the book open at all x3

5. What has been challenging about this course so far? Why?

The most challenging part has been coordinating with team members to meet and work on group projects, especially when there are multiple projects happening simultaneously. However, I think that it is an important skill to learn going forward. X7

Ex: Google Doc is posted but not filled out by all the group members

Having two group projects at once can be a little confusing sometimes, but the actual assignments aren't too challenging once they're explained.

Collaboration with others for writing projects and finding time to meet with each other outside of class X4

I find having multiple assignments going at the same time to be challenging. The assignments themselves aren't difficult, but to have them going at the same time throws me off. Also, I'm **confused by due dates**... it's hard to find what's due when on our course site being that there is 4 different schedule pages. x5

I agree with the last comment. I also find that the way the assignments are explained and the language used to explain them is a little confusing. Ex: the tabs to differentiate the units (took a while to figure out how that was organized/that those were separate units)X2

Getting used to not using BB for this class. x2

BlackBoard can actually be really, really helpful if it's used well. Yeah, it's annoying most of the time, but it's everything in one place.

I like your course site and the collaborative nature of the course in general, but it's a challenge to adjust to look to the site for any (all) info for this course when everything else can be found in BlackBoard. I feel like I lose track of this course a bit being that way. x2

Having all the assignments up all at the same time makes it confusing to know what unit we are on and what due dates there. X3

The site can be cluttered sometimes and when we are in multiple phases of the class we jump around through the tabs too much. X3

^Ex. earlier this week you jumped forward to the feasibility section, while we're still in the middle of the instructions project. I'm assuming this was intended to just be somewhat of a preface to what we will be doing next, but it does add some chaos.