

English 280, Third Place; Professor, Dr. Amy Patrick Mossman

Merging Perceptions of Reality: Bridging the Gap between Developing Writers and Their Interdisciplinary Mentors

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An Overview of Negative Student Attitudes towards Interdisciplinary Writing Courses

Many students believe that required interdisciplinary writing courses are not useful, since they are not directly applicable to their own field of study or their future career. Students may also feel that they are being forced to learn and are only chasing a “good” grade. These negative attitudes toward

must realize that students often have a limited perspective upon language. Students must also be willing to challenge their pre-existing perceptions of language and rhetoric to become better writers. By learning to write well with accommodating mentors, students can improve their own strategies for tackling the writing process, their abilities to construct and analyze arguments, and their social skills. These three aspects can then be applied in thei

Job interviews are one of many aspects of the workplace that are in several ways

Additionally, by having a writing group, one becomes more aware of the different ways to write. Even the writing group in North West England felt overall that they had “developed an

merging, since students would communicate their own perceptions of writing and how they are related to the writing process. Poe would then facilitate by giving them exercises to develop their own writing techniques.

Throughout the course of our schooling, career(s), and life, we are faced with challenges that require developing our own epistemologies or ways of thinking. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of writing courses is that students develop original compositions. Even if their work is not up to par, upon review from peers and teachers, student can learn from the feedback they receive. This all goes back to the idea that writing is a social act. Essentially, to improve one's writing skills requires a great deal of learning how to communicate new ideas.

The value in writing is that the writer works to develop novel ideas, even if the ideas are analyzing preexisting ones. This process is not easy in the sense that one must put intangible ideas into tangible media or in writing. One must pull on multiple avenues of knowledge in order to form a successful writing work. That being said, students must recognize that knowledge is transferable, and teachers must encourage their students to develop their own perspectives on how to tackle the writing process and communicate effectively.

