

English 125.038  
 Instructor: Howe  
 Technologies of College Composition

### Final Course Evaluation

Throughout the term, we've focused on two major themes: composition as a technology, and critical thought about a variety of perspectives on technology. We've paid special attention to structure and form—the basic building blocks of argument and logic. This class relied heavily on the possibilities inherent in the electronic classroom, and while this does introduce a variety of special difficulties, I also hope that it has proved useful for your future careers as critical, self-aware writers able to make use of the vast array of resources at your disposal as students at the University of Michigan. This final evaluation is very important for me, as I use it to further refine both the content and the style of my classroom presence. Please make every effort to answer as completely as possible.

1. This term, we've used a variety of what we might call "technologies of composition": thesis patterns, essay outlining from the thesis, employing Microsoft Word's find/replace feature, brainstorming exercises, electronic workshopping/commenting, in-class revision, weblogging, in-class activities, your reading presentations/leading class discussion, and so on. Of the various activities we've completed over the past months, which did you find most helpful, and why?

The web activities that we did are the most useful personally because I learned a lot about making a homepage which is mainly a way to publish your own work.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

The comments is very, very thorough and is especially helpful. ~~I~~<sup>I am able</sup> know exactly what is wrong, but not only that, ~~you~~ you also do not hesitate to give praise if you like certain things about our work.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

So far I can see every advantage or use from the work that we do in this class. Even the ~~on~~ web-related activity is very useful, although some may argue

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

I learned to write argumentative ~~essay~~ and my greatest achievement in class is probably realising the power of technology

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I think the most helpful feature is ~~is~~ the thesis pattern and outline. To write a paper, thesis is very important. It can be said that it is the main core of an essay. That's why a guide to help us produce a good thesis is really helpful for us. I also like the workshopping part. It really helps the student a lot since they will receive feedback from more than one person.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

Your critiques are straight to the point and not spiteful. Great!!  
Maybe you should elaborate more clearly what you want us to change about the essay. I know I'm still a little bit  
don't get what you want to change. I will revise

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Everything is helpful and fun. But probably the wedding should be scrapped. But then again, maybe its just me that don't understand the advantage of it.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

My writing has changed a lot ever though I still make mistakes. My glossary has improved also. Overall I think I've improved a lot.

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I definitely found the Word's find/replace feature. I found that it was really helpful to rewrite sentences and get rid of weak verbs. It was much easier to go through and find weak verbs when they were all highlighted. In the end my paper sounded much better after I had revised practically all the sentences with weak verbs.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

I found all of your comments to be very helpful. After reading all the comments, it was very clear to see what parts of my writing I need to focus more on. The individual meetings were really advantageous. It really helped to brainstorm out loud and get another perspective I think that the fact that one of our meetings were required was good because it definitely made me feel more comfortable about coming to see you again.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

The weblog seemed somewhat pointless. At first it seemed as though we were going to do much more with it, but later in the term we sort of just stopped using it. On top of that, it wasn't graded and we didn't discuss any of our entries in class, well we did a few. I think that we need to discuss our homework more, maybe have presenters create mini assignments that correlate with their reading.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

I think that I've learned a lot about grammatical things but more importantly how to write more effective sentences. I will definitely use the new tools for writing and revision in the future. My greatest accomplishment would have to be producing a webpage with my group. I'm am so oblivious when it comes to computers and to have such a great product was really rewarding.

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I found the activities where we used word to revise our essays, I found a lot of useful methods that really make the editing/writing process easier.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

I found your responses very helpful, for the most part it was easy to learn from my mistakes.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

The weblogs seemed kind of pointless and I didn't really get anything from them.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

I definitely think my writing has improved. For example I never paid attention to my usage of weak verbs and passive voice until, this class gave me a greater awareness of these problems

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I think that the most helpful feature of English class was both electronic workshopping/commenting and in-class revision because it has helped me improve my weaknesses in writing an essay. I believe that my essays were dramatically improved.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

The marginal comments, grammar was a feature that I did not previously know on Microsoft word. It has helped me for future essays that I will write by inserting comments. Also, again, as in the 1st question, it has improved my essays.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

The least helpful aspect were in-class activities such as brainstorming and the weblogs of people who posted them up should be discussed more in order to evaluate other people's thoughts on a reading.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

My writing has changed because I tend to use less expletives and passive voice which may help me for future essays. My greatest accomplishment is the final presentation (website) because it has helped me work as a group and it has been fun working on the project. In the future, I will try to use what we've learned in English for future courses such as the features mentioned in question 1.

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I really liked the essay outlining exercise. It helped me organize my thoughts and allowed me to write a more sophisticated essay moving away from the 5-paragraph essay that we are used to. I have a tendency to ramble, so the essay outlining exercise really gave me a focus. I wish we had done the exercise in the beginning of the year. It would have allowed me to get accustomed to it earlier and thus use it more effectively.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

Most of the responses were very helpful as it allowed me to see the flaws in my writing. Some of the things that were pointed out, I felt was my style of writing. I especially liked the one on one meetings as it helped me collect my thoughts.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Web blogging, I thought was the least helpful. We didn't use it enough and I felt that most people already knew how to use the technology. So the people who enjoyed working with it were already using it whereas people who didn't find it useful didn't take the extra step to blog.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

my writing, ~~to~~ feel, has become more organized. That was my biggest weakness. Also I am beginning to watch for passive and weak verbs more. ~~I~~  
~~think it will take time~~

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essay outlining from thesis.

It made a lot of sense. I was wondering why my papers did not have a logical flow. But after this exercise I found a ~~better~~ way to <sup>construct an</sup> outline and ~~write~~

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

They were super good!

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

~~Nothing~~ ~~was~~  
everything was useful. Especially discussion + ~~the~~  
reading essays. They were interesting

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

Still problems with having a logical flow in papers,  
but got much better  
greatest accomplishment was the website, ~~it~~  
It came out to be better than what I expected.  
And now to know how to make websites.

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I've found most helpful the find/replace feature, brainstorming exercises, and outlining exercise. I feel that these exercises have made me a more focused and ~~clearer~~ critical writer.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

In our individual meetings, I believe we have both seen an improvement in my writing. Outlining skills have made my papers more concrete and focused.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Peer editing. ~~the~~ I've found peer editing least useful because my peer editors weren't helpful.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

As I stated before, I feel my writing is <sup>more</sup> concrete and precise. My organization has improved as a result of the outlining skills you taught me in office hours. Thank you, Tonya, and I'm sure I'll be seeing you around.

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I found the reading presentations most helpful. Often times, the essays seemed unclear, or I didn't feel like I understood the main point(s) of the essay. Having a classmate explain it, plus the in-class discussion, helped a lot.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

Your feedback helped a lot too. My understanding of the passive voice increased a lot. Individual comments on the essay were also good.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Web logs. They didn't seem overly ~~effective~~ <sup>effective</sup>.  
Maybe a good assignment would be writing a brief paragraph about each essay.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

My writing has certainly improved. Greatest accomplishment: nothing specific, just increased my understanding of writing.

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For me essay outlining from thesis was the most helpful. Organization in writing essays is one of the biggest problems I have. Therefore it was the most helpful. Weblogging was also fun to write. Revising essays was a little bit difficult for me to do.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

Your comments on each essays helped improve my writing skills. I think my grammar error shrank as time goes by.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Working on thesis and outlining essays were the most helpful in this ~~essay~~ <sup>class</sup> because I had a lot of troubles ~~with~~ involving them. Having class at Shappiro library was the least useful for me. It was very hard to concentrate.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

The greatest accomplishment I had is the organization of the essay. I had the most trouble with the organization of the essay. Now, I think I am confident with it. Also I make fewer grammatical errors.

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electronic workshopping, it was a feature in word that I never knew before, and helped me greatly

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

I agree on what you've wrote.  
I need to improve on my grammar, as well as style and eliminating passive voice.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

None.

I think everything we did helped in writing in some way.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

I've learned greatly about writing.

I'll take everything I've learned in this class, improvement on style, grammar, etc etc. as I know writing will be important for everything I'll do in future.

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I felt that the essay outlining from thesis was the most helpful. It allowed me to develop my essay & have a better structured paper.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

They helped me a lot because I could understand what you were looking for.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Exchanging papers over the net because people were slow + just wanted to get their work done

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

I feel like one of my papers really stretched my limit and I explored myself

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Most helpful:

- the articles we read (McLuhan's interesting)
- the comments and suggestions from you on my essays
- style → <sup>restraining from</sup> expletive use, wordiness, maintain parallelism, etc.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

Your comments were the most helpful, and I believe that my writing has improved as a result of those comments. I'm glad I learned how to use MS Word more efficiently.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Least helpful:

- the other students in this class → too many students in our class should have taken Practicum.
- vocabulary → nobody did it that much, and we weren't tested on it
- weblog →

I don't think that most of our class understood the articles that we read, and also just regular in-class discussions were far more effective at delving into the articles' content than the weblogs. I have the feeling that most students didn't enjoy making the web logs.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

Stylistically, my writing is more clear-cut and concise (at least I hope it is!)

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Personally I found the thesis organization exercises to be amazingly helpful. Once I learned how to establish a dynamic, argumentative thesis everything just fell into place after that. This exercise helps me in every class I take, on every paper I write.

I found the "busy work" of weblogs, vocab, etc. to be tedious and not particularly helpful.

The reading presentations were largely based on issues many students failed to uncover or were too unconfident to present

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

Your comments were constructive and extremely helpful, my writing has grown immensely as a result of your critiques.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Least helpful; reading presentations, because the writings

① often addressed issues that students failed to grasp

② pertained to a <sup>specific</sup> perspective that the presenter did not see and therefore much of the presentation lacked importance.

Presentations became especially stressful under the above circumstances.

\* Less busy work and small assignments more work on the thesis etc. before revision. Busy work creates hostility amongst the masses. \*

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

Coming into this class I had no clue about writing cohesive, coherent, argumentative essays. You have helped my writing progress in every way possible, now I even know how to write a thesis!

Everything I have gained from this class is applicable to the future.

Thank you for all your help, I consider myself extraordinarily lucky to have had you as my guide in writing. Good Luck in the future  
Thanks for a fabulous term!

English 125.038  
Instructor: Howe  
Technologies of College Composition

### Final Course Evaluation

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I would definitely say the most useful work we ever did was thesis patterns, and all of the essay outlining exercises. I came into this class completely unaware of "the so-called writing process." Little did I know, it made every one of my essays easier to write and, more importantly, better in content.

2. Please comment on my responses to your body of work. You might consider, for example, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of my use of marginal comments, my explanations of grammar issues, or any individual meetings we may have had.

I would have to say I was completely surprised when you turned back essay one at the massive amount of comments you had. You answered any possible questions I had leaving me with a reasoning of my grade. You continued to do this throughout the entire term—and I appreciated it greatly.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

I hated the readings they were not helpful at all w/ my writing.

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

It has improved greatly.

Thanks for a fabulous term!

English 125.038  
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I found the find/replace and track changes in Word to be the most useful thing I learnt in this class. It's great because now I could use these features in my other courses

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Sometimes your handwriting can be difficult to read, especially when a lot of your comments are cramped together.

3. What aspect of this course did you find least helpful or useful, and why? What do you think I could do to make this class more helpful for later students?

Exchanging drafts with peers electronically proved to be hard. For my essay 2 and 3 my peer sent his draft really late and in one occasion I didn't receive my peer's draft at all for one particular essay.

I think it's going to benefit students a lot if we had more one-to-one meetings with you

4. Please comment on your own work in the space below. How do you think your writing has changed? What do you think your greatest accomplishment in this class has been, and why? What will you take from this class and use in the future?

I learnt a lot on things which I never considered to be my weakness before, <sup>such as</sup> descriptive, I'll <sup>learn</sup> take a lot of techniques which will prove to be useful to my other courses.

Thanks for a fabulous term!