



Academic Writing Program Ethos

MMC's Academic Writing program works to empower students with methods and approaches for:

- Generating writing when stuck
- Thinking through and by writing
- Deepening analysis
- Reading and engaging with texts actively
- Critical thinking and making connections
- Putting texts and ideas in lively conversation
- Bottom-up, inquiry-based research
- Organizing thoughts
- Sentence-level work, including concision, clarity, rhetorical grammar (how do sentences do what they do, and what does grammar have to do with it?)
- Making meaning with words!
- Studying effectively
- Building confidence
- Seeing themselves as thinkers and writers
- Learning their individual processes
- Paying attention to rhetoric and craft

How?

- We tell students why they're doing what they're doing so that the value of our work together is clear.
- We require that students build their reflective practice.
- We normalize difficulty, redefine "failure," and slay the myth of the "good writer."
- We scaffold students to find their most effective individual writing process—that is functional, transferrable, and even enjoyable—by learning the strengths and weaknesses of each writer ("knowing the writer," not "knowing the essay").
- We emphasize instrumental process work in crafting a strong product.

Why?

- Skills Transfer! Students explore the many purposes of writing, including writing as thinking, as persuasion, as expression, as communication, as advocacy, etc., so that they can move what they're learning into their disciplines, into the real world, and into other writing situations and contexts.