



Communication and Creative and Performing Arts Division  
1400 Tanyard Road, Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-468-5000

## **COM 225: Why We Write: Writing for Elementary Students**

Syllabus

Lecture Hours/Credits: 3/3

### **Catalog Description**

*Prerequisite: ENG 102*

This course prepares education majors to facilitate the writing workshop approach in the elementary classroom to increase young writers' abilities in the writing crafts. The course will introduce education majors to ways to utilize formative and summative assessment methods to assist struggling writers in their own classroom. Utilizing best practices through mini lessons and conferences, education majors will learn how to assist emerging writers through a writing workshop approach.

### **Textbook and Course Materials**

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm with the bookstore and/or their instructor the textbook, handbook, and any other materials required for their specific course and section. Click here to see current textbook prices at [rcgc.bncollege.com](http://rcgc.bncollege.com).

### **Evaluation Assessment**

#### **Online Proctoring**

All courses offered at RCSJ, whether they are web-enhanced, hybrid, or fully online, may include assessments that make use of Online Proctoring. To find out more about Online Proctoring, and to learn about the minimum technical requirements, visit [rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring](http://rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring).

### **Grading Distribution**

Grading to be determined by individual instructors.

Individual instructors may include the following assessment(s):

- Quizzes
- Exams
- Assignments
- Class Participation
- Journal
- Portfolio

### **Grading**

The grading scale for each course and section will be determined by the instructor and distributed the first day of class.

## Rowan College South Jersey Core Competencies

(Based on the NJCCC General Education Foundation - August 15, 2007; Revised 2011; Adopted 2014)

This comprehensive list reflects the core competencies that are essential for all RCSJ graduates; however, each program varies regarding competencies required for a specific degree. Critical thinking is embedded in all courses, while teamwork and personal skills are embedded in many courses.

1. **Written and Oral Communication:** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
2. **Quantitative Knowledge and Skills:** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
3. **Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning:** Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
4. **Technological Competency:** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
5. **Society and Human Behavior:** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
6. **Humanistic Perspective:** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, history, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
7. **Historical Perspective:** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
8. **Global and Cultural Awareness:** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
9. **Ethical Reasoning and Action:** Students will understand ethical issues and situations.
10. **Information Literacy:** Students will address an information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information.

### COM 225 Core Competencies

This course focuses on two of RCSJ's Core Competencies:

- Written and Oral Communication
- Humanistic Perspective

**Student Learning Outcomes: Why We Write: Writing for Elementary Students**

<b>Successful Completion of COM 225 will help students:</b>	<b>RCSJ Core Competencies</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)</b>
Applying the Writing Workshop concept and designing and implementing mini lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Written and Oral Communication</li> <li>● Humanistic Perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Essays</li> <li>● Homework</li> <li>● Classwork</li> <li>● Quizzes</li> <li>● Presentation</li> <li>● Portfolio</li> </ul>
Assessing student writing through student writing conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Written and Oral Communication</li> <li>● Humanistic Perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Essays</li> <li>● Homework</li> <li>● Classwork</li> <li>● Quizzes</li> <li>● Presentation</li> <li>● Portfolio</li> </ul>
Applying mentor texts and touchstone to teach writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Written and Oral Communication</li> <li>● Humanistic Perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Essays</li> <li>● Homework</li> <li>● Classwork</li> <li>● Quizzes</li> <li>● Presentation</li> <li>● Portfolio</li> </ul>
Assessing student needs through summative and formative assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Written and Oral Communication</li> <li>● Humanistic Perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Essays</li> <li>● Homework</li> <li>● Classwork</li> <li>● Quizzes</li> <li>● Presentation</li> <li>● Portfolio</li> </ul>

## TOPICAL OUTLINE

**Conventions of Print:** The term “conventions of print” refers to the understanding that when the English language is written down, it is transcribed in a standard, uniform manner so that words and ideas communicated through writing are consistently and easily understood by all readers.

- **Conventions of print include the following:**
  - Directionality: English is written and read from left to right and from top to bottom.
  - Punctuation communicates meaning and expression to readers.
  - Space: Writers use space to separate ideas, indicate when readers should pause for thought, and to separate words so that they are easily read.
  - Case: Letters come in two forms, uppercase and lowercase. Case can provide additional meaning to readers about the beginning of new ideas and indicates to the reader whether a noun is describing a specific person, place, or thing.
  - Grammar: Written language subscribes to the rules affecting the form words can take including verb tense, plurals, possessives, and modifiers like adverbs and adjectives.
  - Usage: Writers understand how incomplete sentences, run-on sentences, and improper use of pronouns can impede effective communication of ideas.
  - Spelling: Words are spelled according to convention so that they are easily read by others to facilitate effective communication

**Writers’ Workshop:** The Writing Workshop is a student-centered teacher facilitated framework for teaching writing. It is based on the concept that students learn to write best when they write frequently, for extended periods of time, on topics of their own choosing. Developing writers need agency through: ownership of their own writing; guidance from an experienced writer; and support from a community of fellow learners.

- **Writers’ Workshop** includes the following:
  - Planning for writing
  - Partnerships in writing
  - Reading like writers; writing like readers
  - Keeping readers in mind: writing to answer questions
  - Using mentor and touchstone texts
  - Revising
  - Editing
  - Self-assessing and goal setting
- **Teaching the Writers’ Workshop**
  - 4 part mini-lesson
  - Formative assessment
  - Writing
  - Sharing

## **Affirmative Action Statement**

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a work and academic environment that maintains and promotes affirmative action and equal opportunity for all employees and students without discrimination on the basis of certain enumerated and protected categories. These categories are race, creed (religion), color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, domestic partnership or civil union status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, or mental or physical disability, including AIDS and HIV related illnesses.

For questions concerning discrimination, contact Almarie J. Jones, Special Assistant to the President, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance, 856-415-2154 or [ajones@rcsj.edu](mailto:ajones@rcsj.edu) or (Cumberland) Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Judicial Affairs, 856-691-8600, ext. 1414 or [nalridge@rcsj.edu](mailto:nalridge@rcsj.edu). For disability issues or any barriers in the learning or physical environment related to a document condition/disability please contact: Gloucester campus – Carol Weinhardt, Director, Department of Special Services, ADA/504 Officer at 856-415-2247 or [cweinhar@rcsj.edu](mailto:cweinhar@rcsj.edu); or Cumberland Campus – Meredith Vicente, Senior Director, Department of Special Services/Project Assist at 856-200-4688 or [mvicent1@rcsj.edu](mailto:mvicent1@rcsj.edu).

## **Department of Special Services**

The Department of Special Services is committed to providing support services and ensuring equal access to eligible students with documented conditions/disabilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act with Amendments Act (ADAAA).

### **(Gloucester Campus Location and Contact)**

Location: Instructional Center, room 425A.

Primary Contact: Director, Carol Weinhardt, (email) [cweinhar@rcsj.edu](mailto:cweinhar@rcsj.edu); or (phone) 856-415-2247.

### **(Cumberland Campus Location and Contact)**

Location: Center for Academic & Student Success (CASS)

Primary Contact: Senior Director, Meredith Vicente, (email) [mvicent1@rcsj.edu](mailto:mvicent1@rcsj.edu); or (phone) 856-200-4688.

## Reporting Allegations of Sexual Assault and Resource Referrals (08/2021) Gloucester Campus

There are multiple safe places for students to report allegations of sexual assault, both on and off campus. Reports of sexual assault can be made to any of the following offices listed in the chart below.

All students are encouraged to report alleged crimes on campus. Crimes that pose a threat to the campus community must be reported to 9-1-1, Security, the Sheriff's Office or the Deptford Township Police Department. All employees, including Security staff, must report incidents of discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct to the Title IX Officer.

Service	Resource	Phone Number/Location/Website
<b>Non-Confidential Reporting</b>  Local Law Enforcement	Gloucester County Sheriff's Office Deptford Township Police Dept.  Gloucester Co. Prosecutor's Office  Sexual Assault Response Team	856-681-2200  856-845-2220  856-384-5500  856-384-5555
<b>Non-Confidential Reporting 9-1-1 and Campus Security</b>	<b>9-1-1</b> Gloucester County Emergency Management Dispatch  Campus Security <b>Blue Light</b> Emergency Phones <u>or</u> ext. 4444 from any campus desk phone	<b>9-1-1 or push RED button on</b> Campus <b>Blue Light</b> Emergency Phones   856-681-6287
<b>Non-Confidential On-Campus Reporting Support Services</b>	Almarie J. Jones Special Assistant to the President Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance  John F. Ryder Director, Student and Veteran Affairs	856-415-2154 College Center, Room 116 <i>ajones@rcsj.edu</i>  856-468-5000, ext. 6456 College Center, room 202 <i>jryder@rcsj.edu</i>
<b>Confidential On-Campus Counseling and Support Services</b>	Lois Y. Lawson-Bridgell, Ph.D. MSW, LSW, Director Counseling & Wellness Services Center  William Leonard, Ph.D. Intervention Teams Consultant  Crystal Noboa, LSW, MSW Director, The Center for People in Transition (PIT)  Diane Mussoline, EdS, LMFT Executive Director of Behavioral Services	856-464-5236 <i>llawsonb@rcsj.edu</i> College Center, Room 206  856-415-2119 <i>wleonard@rcsj.edu</i> College Center, STEM Office C-168  856-415-2264 <i>cnoboa@rcsj.edu</i> Career & Technical Education Center, Room 809, 1492 Tanyard Road  856-494-5665 <i>dmussoli@rcsj.edu</i> Rowan University Center, Room 200A
<b>Confidential Off-Campus Full-Service Support</b>	Center for Family Services/ Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)	1-866-295-7378 Camden and Gloucester counties <a href="http://www.centerffs.org/serv">www.centerffs.org/serv</a>
<b>Hospitals with Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners</b>	Inspira Medical Center  Jefferson Washington Township Hospital	700 Mullica Hill Road, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 856-508-1000  435 Hurffville-Crosskeys Rd., Turnersville, NJ 856-582-2500