



What is Writing?

Class Discussions

1. Understanding Writing

- How would you define writing in your own words? Does it have to be formal to “count”?
- Can something like a text message or a social media post be considered real writing? Why or why not?
- Discuss how writing connects people across time and space (e.g., reading a book from centuries ago or tweeting to someone abroad).

2. Purposes of Writing

- Which purpose of writing do you personally use most often, and why? (e.g., thinking, recording, entertaining)
- How does writing help us think more clearly or make decisions? Can you give examples from your own experience?
- Discuss how persuasive writing influences behavior or opinion. Can you think of a time writing changed your mind?
- How can writing help build community? Can you give examples from online or offline spaces?
- Explore the idea of “writing to imagine and design futures.” How does writing help innovate or prototype ideas?

3. Writing Styles

- Compare the four main styles (expository, descriptive, persuasive, narrative). Which style do you feel most comfortable using?
- Discuss how tone, word choice, and structure differ between styles. Can you rewrite a simple message (like “recycle”) in multiple styles?
- Why is it important to match writing style to purpose? Can mismatched style and purpose cause confusion?

4. Writing Genres

- How can the same topic look completely different across genres? (Use the climate change examples as a starting point.)
- Can you identify genres in the media you consume every day, news, blogs, social media, novels? How do they differ in approach?
- Discuss the overlap between style and genre. How does understanding both help writers?

5. The Writing Process

- Why is revision so important? Can you share a time you improved a piece of writing through multiple drafts?
- How does prewriting or brainstorming help organize messy ideas?
- Discuss the differences between editing and revising. Why do both matter?
- Should professional writers always go through the full writing process, or are there exceptions?

6. Writing in Everyday Life

- How does writing influence your academic, personal, professional, and creative life?

- Can informal writing (texts, tweets, journals) be as powerful as formal writing? Why or why not?
- Discuss ways writing shapes identity and personal brand. Have you ever used writing to express who you are?