

UNK GENERAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT
Foundational Core: Written Communication

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of their Written Communication course, students should be able to:

- 1) Discern a writer's argument or purpose.
- 2) Use appropriate sources responsibly.
- 3) Use context-appropriate conventions of written English.
- 4) Form and support a coherent position on an issue.
- 5) Write in a manner appropriate to the audience and context.

The purpose of this assignment is to evaluate whether or not these learning objectives have been met. The basics of this assignment are common to all the General Studies Written Communication courses taught at UNK. Your professor may give you additional instructions that tailor the assignment specifically to your course, such as specifying a different length, the concept/s on which to focus, or the scholars whose work you are to discuss.

COMMON ASSESSMENT OPTIONS: WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Option 1: Research Proposal

Using a self-selected or assigned topic, students write a proposal for a fully developed research-supported essay. The initial task is to identify gaps in one's knowledge that can be at least partially filled by recourse to primary or secondary sources. Students will consult as many sources as necessary (or assigned) and complete a paper including

- A context for the research, including audience and purpose
- An annotated bibliography of primary/secondary sources
- A statement assessing the usefulness of each source
- A working thesis statement or idea
- A statement regarding the extent to which the selected resources and the (student) writer's personal knowledge over XXX can answer current or enduring questions over the topic.

Assessment should be given and collected somewhere within the last 4 weeks of the semester. Length of the proposal is at the instructor's discretion.

Option 2: Research-Supported Essay

This paper, most likely assigned near the end of the semester, will take the form of a fully developed, coherent essay that draws upon primary and/or secondary sources, demonstrates awareness of rhetorical context, and conforms to the conventions of the discipline.

Assessment should be given and collected somewhere within the last 4 weeks of the semester. Length of the proposal is at the instructor's discretion.