

## Writing 104: Writing to Inform and Explain

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### Introduction

WRT 104 helps students become more effective writers by providing them with robust opportunities to develop lifelong habits that drive successful writing/communication. The course's seven areas of focus give students opportunities to apply the knowledge and tools they need to succeed in college courses across the curriculum and in the work world. By the end of the course, students will have gained experience in these fundamental writing practices: rhetorical approaches to composing that connect the author's purpose with the audience's needs; writing process techniques, such as brainstorming, drafting, reflecting, and revising; research skills, including finding, evaluating, and applying research from primary and secondary sources; academic skills, such as summarizing, annotating, paraphrasing, and citing; multimodal composition across mediums and platforms; and teamwork and collaboration. The course's innovative badging design allows students to pursue their own interests and work at their own pace, at the same time that it offers repeated exposure to and practice with key concepts and tools.

### Course Goals

This course focuses on writing as the sharing of information with a variety of audiences through different media, modes, genres. Students are expected to meet the demands of different ***rhetorical situations*** and are asked to develop their ability to reflect on the effectiveness of their compositions and composition processes. In addition, this course provides extensive practice in using digital composing tools and digital information technologies. Writing effectively and demonstrating information literacy are required for the general education program at URI and are integrated into the assignments and activities of this course.

All first-year writing courses at URI require:

- A combination of extensively revised and polished compositions as well as shorter, more informal writing-to-learn assignments
- A focus on revision, with peer review and formative teacher response
- An opportunity to discover and use URI library resources including research databases, library holdings, and electronic tutorials
- The use of different kinds of research and evidence to inform, explain, or persuade

In completing this course successfully, you will become more confident in using a number of composing strategies; you'll be able to respond effectively to the writing of others; you'll recognize different rhetorical situations and production strategies. Generally speaking, at the end of this class, you'll be better prepared to assess and respond to any composing task.

### Course Structure: Choose Your Own Adventure

In this course you will have a great deal of freedom to choose topics, projects, genres, modes, and media using a badging system. This means that you will choose the project badges that you

will work on. Please note, however, that all students must earn one research-intensive project badge to pass the course.

Each Project Badge pathway includes Level I, Level II, and Level III projects that build toward, or scaffold, a major composition. You will work through project badges individually or in small groups, sharing your work-in-progress frequently with your peers and your instructor. This approach gives you both freedom and responsibility as you will be required to manage your time wisely and work independently and in community toward your personal course goals.



### Grading

You get to pick the grade you want in this class and complete badges accordingly. Earning more badges means you will get a higher grade. You may submit a badge application as many times as you need to earn the badge; however, the speed with which you move through the course will be slowed down each time your badge application is declined. Remember that time marches on, and the final deadline for submitting badge applications is April 30 (the last day of class).

### The Badge Grading

- ★ To earn an **A** in the course, earn two (2) project badges plus the Peer Review badges, the Reflection badge, and the Leadership badge
- ★ To earn a **B** in the course, earn two (2) project badges plus the Peer Review badge, and the Reflection badge
- ★ To earn a **C** in the course, earn one (1) research-intensive project badge plus the Peer Review badges + the Reflection badge
- ★ To earn a **D** in this course, earn one (1) Research Intensive Project Badge plus Reflection badge

### And The Website

<https://sites.google.com/npsri.net/uriwritingatbhs/home>