English 1023, Composition II, Fall 2005

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 1013 (with a grade of “C” or better)

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Student Rights and Responsibilities (NWACC College Catalog 42-45): Includes discussions of conduct violations and grievance procedures, among other topics. Student Conduct--Students are expected to treat the instructor, other students, and themselves with courtesy and respect. Inappropriate or disruptive behaviors that adversely affect the learning environment will be grounds for dismissal from the class session or, if the behavior continues, expulsion from the class for the remainder of the semester.

Tips for Success:
Ø Attend class regularly.
Ø Complete assignments early so that you can think about or revise them.
Ø Read assignments alertly; annotate the readings with notes, questions, and definitions.
Ø Come prepared: Bring all of your textbooks and materials to each class meeting.
Ø Review the reading assignment in the minutes before class begins.
Ø Take notes in class.
Ø Participate in class discussion.
Ø Use the writing process (pre-write, draft, revise, edit, proofread, publish) to help yourself write the best essays you can.

Expectations and Demands*:
Persistence: Try, try, try without whining. You don’t get a second chance to make an impression.
Manage your impulses, your urges. Especially control the urges to talk with friends, criticize the teacher or current activity, and get up to go for a drink of water or to use the bathroom. Small children have a problem with this. You aren’t small children. Learn how to wait and keep your comments to yourself unless they are asked for.
Listen with understanding and empathy. Look at the speaker or video and don’t work on other subjects, write notes, draw, lay your head down on your desk, read a book, etc. Your actions are often interpreted as rude and disrespectful.

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Think flexibly. Adapt to change and be open-minded. Statements such as “This is stupid!” and “Why do we have to do this?” reflect a narrow-minded, uneducated, disrespectful, irresponsible, brainless attitude.

Think about your thinking. Stop every once in a while and reflect on your thinking and learning.

Strive for accuracy. Set high expectations for yourself. Don’t always ask “How many points is this worth?” It indicates an immature attitude toward learning, perceived by society and most of your classmates as a childish attitude.
**Question and pose problems.** Be an active participant. Don’t make statements like “I don’t understand anything!” Ask specific questions if you want to maximize your learning. Learn to ask questions that will get you what you really want.

**Apply your past knowledge to new situations.** You have been in school a long time, and you know a lot of stuff and have a wealth of experiences. Use your mind wisely.

**Think and communicate with clarity and precision.** Help your instructors and others to understand by giving examples, and refrain from slang and crude expressions.

**Gather data through all your senses.** Be alert. Use all your modalities: hear, see, speak, feel.

**Create, imagine, and innovate.** Society does not value dullness.

**Respond with wonderment and awe.** It’s all about attitude. Act excited once in a while.

**Take responsible risks.** Take a risk. Raise your hand even though you are not sure of the right answer. Express an unpopular (yet respectful) opinion.

**Find humor.** People tend to take more seriously people who don’t always take themselves so seriously. Lighten up!

**Be tolerant.** Welcome the opportunity to learn something outside your comfort zone.

**Think independently.** Don’t let others’ opinions convince you too quickly that your ideas are wrong or out of line. Trust your own ideas until you can be convinced to think or believe differently.

**Think interdependently.** Listen to and learn from each other. Don’t be too quick to discount someone else’s idea just because it disagrees with or varies from yours.

**Remain open to continuous learning.** You have just begun your journey. Don’t be arrogant about what you know. The list is much longer of what you don’t know.

**********We all have much to learn.**********

*Taken almost word-for-word from the article “Role of Teachers Changing in New School Movement” by Dr. Lee Haight, Principal, Fayetteville West Campus Technical Center. Northwest Arkansas Times 30 Dec. 2003: A5. These expectations and demands are what Dr. Haight tells us that Fayetteville High School English teacher Thelma Tarver has developed for her students. I believe they hold equal validity for us in the college classroom, and that is why I have shared them. You will earn your grade in this class, and the more you are able to apply the above principles to your learning, the more successful your learning will be.

Welcome to Comp II! I look forward to getting to know each of you better and to sharing the learning process with you because, like you, I am a learner in our classroom.