

What is ENGLISH 101?

English 101 is a college level class designed to prepare students to succeed in a variety of classes that require written composition. Note that it can serve as preparation for writing in courses outside of the humanities. Much of the material in the course is familiar to students who have had college prep courses in high school, but the focus on argument requires a higher level of understanding and skill in presenting controversial topics.

I need ENGLISH 101. Should I enroll in it directly or in a preliminary course?

So, you've learned that you need or want to take ENGLISH 101. It's a good idea to talk with an advisor before making your decision. Below is a brief assessment to help you decide if you should also take another class before taking your ENGLISH 101 class.

If you feel confident that you can correctly format (1) a paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence, and (2) an essay with a header, title, introductory paragraph with a thesis, supporting paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph, then you should enroll in ENGLISH 101. Student should possess basic computer skills, including, for example, formatting and saving a document and sending a document as an attachment.

If you feel lacking in even basic knowledge of the above, then you should consider ENGLISH 097 or ENGLISH 101S. ENGLISH 097 is a stand-alone class designed to prepare for ENGLISH 101. ENGLISH 101S is a course taken in conjunction with a corresponding ENGLISH 101 class. The 101 and 101S classes would be taken during the same semester with the same instructor.

Essay 1: Summary and Response Essay

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Purpose

Writing a summary of another argument is a first step toward joining an academic conversation and finding our voice within it. Writing a summary encourages us to understand another point of view fully and describe it precisely so others can understand. The next step is to join the conversation by responding to the argument and adding to it.

Task

- Find a TED Talk that is an argument and is on a topic that interests you.
- Write a thorough summary of and response to that argument.

Requirements

- The essay must be at least two (2) full pages long.
- DO NOT quote any material. Use your own words in the summary and response.
- Format your paper according to MLA format.
- Provide a Works Cited page.

Audience

- The audience/reader for this essay is a college student who has not read or seen the original.

Tips

Essay Organization: This will be a multi-paragraph essay.

- The first part of the essay is the summary. Use what you know about summary writing to compose this section of the essay:
 - Include the title of the argument, the speaker's full name, the argument's main claim, and your overall assessment of the argument's validity.
 - The summary section or sections should describe the key ideas of the argument, including the main claim, key reasons, counter arguments, rebuttals, and limits. ○ Choose phrases like "Eligan argues..." throughout to show the speaker's purpose at each point.
 - Write most of the essay in your own words, but consider using the occasional direct quote where the original word choice is critical.
- The second part of the essay is the response to the argument. In this section you should:
 - Bring in an original suggestion to add to the conversation based on the summary and your own opinions.
 - Make sure each paragraph presents and then supports a single main point with specifics.

Brainstorming Questions for the Summary

Before you write an outline or a draft of your essay, you may find it helpful to answer the questions below. They will help you think about the structure of the argument you plan to summarize.

What do you think is the main claim?

In other words, what does the speaker most want to convince us of? Where is the speaker going with all this? If they had to make their point in just one sentence, what would they say? Explain in your own words. What are the argument's reasons, counter arguments, and limits?

- What reasons does the author give for the main claim?
- What, if any, counter arguments are described?
- Does the author respond to the counterarguments?
- Does the author put any limits on their claims?

Brainstorming Questions for the Response

Before you write an outline or a draft of your summary essay, you may find it helpful to answer the questions below. They will help you think about the structure of the argument you plan to respond to.

How would you respond to the author's claim/argument?

- Can you link the work to issues in our present-day world? Which ones, why, and how?
- Can you link the work to issues in your own life, experiences, feelings, or personal philosophy? What emotions did the material arouse in you? Why did they arouse those feelings and how did they manifest?
- Did the work increase or challenge your ideas about a particular issue? Did it change your perspective in any way? How and why?
- Why are the issues and arguments raised interesting or important to you or to our society?
- Would you recommend that others read this work? Why or why not?

Suggestions for the Writing Process

1. Reread/watch the argument you have chosen and make notes as you go on its claims and reasons.
2. Make an argument map and/or answer the brainstorming questions.
3. Write a draft.
4. Seek feedback.
5. Revise your content.
6. Proofread for grammar and punctuation.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Points Value
The introduction mentions the author and title of the argument to be summarized and describes the main claim of the argument	20
The essay presents the key ideas of the argument, leaving out nothing important.	10
The essay represents the argument's claim, reasons, and handling of counterarguments accurately.	10
The essay introduces ideas with well-chosen phrases like "Alstutany argues..." to show the speaker's purpose at each point.	20
The response section paragraphs focus on one central idea, supporting it with specifics and explanation using textual evidence.	10
The response section uses well-chosen common response phrases.	10
The sentences follow the major conventions of Standard English, including grammar, word choice, and punctuation.	10
The essay meets the length and MLA formatting requirements.	10
TOTAL POINTS	100