

Writing Across the Curriculum

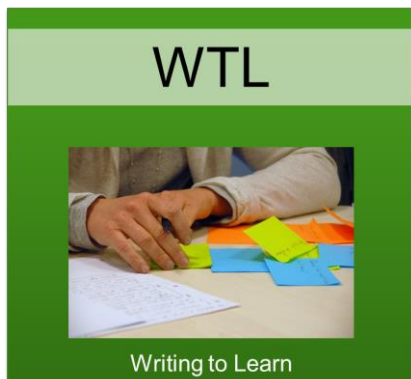
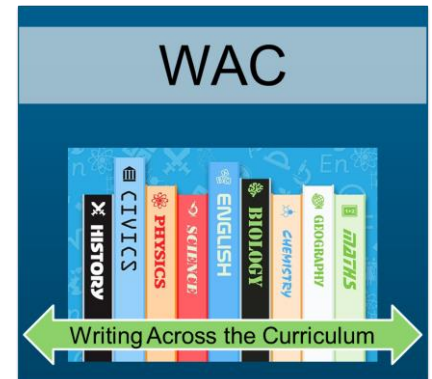
Terms and Definitions



What is Writing Across the Curriculum?

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) is an institution-wide program that views writing as an integral part of the learning process throughout the educational journey – not just in required writing courses, but across the entire curriculum. Key WAC principles are:

- Writing cannot be learned in a single course
- Faculty in every discipline are proficient in the writing conventions for their fields and equipped to teach content-based writing skills
- Good writing begins with effective writing assignments that are clearly written, scaffolded, sequenced, and offer low-stakes opportunities for reflection and revision



What is Writing to Learn?

Writing to Learn (WTL) is a subset of WAC that focuses on using written activities to help students think about key concepts or ideas presented in the course. WTL activities are typically *short, informal, and low-stakes*. They are used to:

- Connect and clarify ideas
- Think critically about ideas
- Remember content
- Reflect on what you don't know or don't understand

What is Writing in the Disciplines?

Writing in the Disciplines (WID) is about teaching students how to write using the conventions and genres of a specific discipline or profession.

WID is founded on the following principles:

- Writing is not a generic skill that is the same in all disciplines; each discipline has its own native writing genres and conventions
- Writing is always specific to a context
- Writing is learned through participation in a discursive community
- Writing is a form of professionalization

