

Individual Writer Development Log

The Individual Writer Development Log (IWDL) is a collection of reflective and analytical writing composed and compiled over the course of the semester to track students' changing writing habits, attitudes, and goals. The purpose of the assignment is to gain insight into your writing development, to develop language to talk about that insight, and to lay the groundwork for transferring that insight to new contexts. The IWDL, an ongoing project, will be submitted at the end of the course and comprises 10% of final course grade.

Steps for Completing an IWDL Session

Recall and review earlier writing:

- On a new sheet of paper, to refresh your memory, go back through the writing you produced over the past unit and list each piece of writing.
- Take a few minutes to categorize or annotate that list in some fashion, noting where in the writing process each piece fell, its purpose, type, usefulness, length, and level of formality.

Read, Reflect, and Record. In a new MS Word document, draw on your writing from the previous unit(s) as you respond to the following prompts. These prompts are intended to generate insights about your writing that can be carried over into the next unit.

1. When in your previous writing did you feel comfortable? (“Cut and paste” or “screen grab” the specific text where you felt comfortable and then explain why you felt comfortable while writing it.)
2. When in your previous writing did you feel uncomfortable? (“Cut and paste” or “screen grab” the specific text where you felt uncomfortable and then explain why you felt uncomfortable while writing it.)
3. How did your thesis evolve? (Pull text from previous drafts of your writing project to show how your thesis changed as you progressed through drafting and revision. List in chronological order the different versions of the thesis and explain the reasons behind differences among them.)
4. What “aha” moments occurred during the drafting of your paper? (Show specific text from your work that reflects your “aha” moment and explain what led to the “aha” moment.)
5. What kind of feedback was most useful for you? (Show a few tidbits of feedback from peers or from your instructor that were most useful for you during revisions. What are the characteristics of that feedback? What made that feedback so useful? How similar or different is that useful feedback to the kind of feedback you gave to peers?)
6. At what points did you approach your writing from a position of genuine interest or open inquiry? (Show text that shows you feeling like a writer and not just a student.)
7. Reflection: What weaknesses in your own writing have you addressed so far and how have you worked to improve them? What do you plan to continue working on?
8. Reflection: In what ways has the learning in this class related to the learning in other classes? What overlaps have you noticed? How is knowledge from these different places intermingling?

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ENG 101: First-Year Composition: Writing about Writing

Save Work for Future Use:

- Leave a few notes for yourself about what you would like to focus on next time.
- Gather your notes and writing from this IWDL session and find a safe place to keep it. This writing will be used in future IWDL sessions and will be part of the final submission of this activity at the end of the semester.