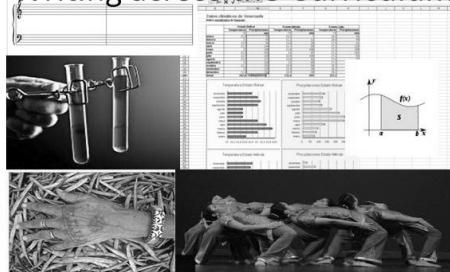


Writing across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines

Writing across the Curriculum



Definition

Writing takes place in a community, and on college campuses we have many kinds of community, which tend to be organized into programs, departments, fields, or disciplines. Each of these includes its own writing processes as well as its own genres. Given this situation, it's impossible for any writing course—including first-year composition—to prepare students for all the writing they will need to do, and do well, in college. Thus, it wasn't surprising that in the 1960s and 1970s, an educational effort called Writing across the Curriculum developed. Writing across the Curriculum—or WAC, as it's often called now—emphasizes the role that writing can play in learning, whether it's keeping a journal, annotating a text, making field notes, or reflecting on what we have learned. Later, programs more targeted to writing *inside* specific disciplines have developed. Writing in the Disciplines—or WID—helps students behave as apprentice writers in that discipline, be it civil engineering, sociology, or dance.

Importance to the Field

Many colleges and universities offer WAC, WID, or WAC/WID programs supporting students' development in writing. Even institutions that don't offer a formal program, however, often include writing to learn activities as well as support for writing inside the discipline. And we know that this kind of progression is critical for students' writing development.

Resources

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