

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: ESL 56 **Credits:** 4

Course Title: Academic Writing III

Course Description:

Prepares for college-level writing by providing instruction and practice in the writing process. Develops competence in composing structured essays in academic English. Emphasizes grammatical accuracy and development of ideas. Credits are not applicable toward graduation. Lecture 4 hours. Total 4 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

ESL 56 continues to build fluency and grammatical accuracy through formal essay writing.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement into ESL 56 or completion of ESL 46

Course Objectives

- Write an essay of at least 600 words on an academic topic, using clear organizational patterns, cohesive connectors, and academic English.
- Compose at least 4 essays of 3-5 paragraphs following various rhetorical modes (See Major Topics).
- Demonstrate independent use of a writing process (See Major Topics).
- Demonstrate understanding of academic honesty and how to avoid plagiarism by correctly summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, and citing.

Major Topics to be Included

- Rhetorical modes, e.g.
 - compare and contrast
 - cause and effect
 - argumentative
 - narrative
 - summary response
 - classification
 - process
- Academic honesty and plagiarism (potentially to include paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, and citing)
- Independent writing process:
 - prewriting/outlining
 - drafting
 - revising for content
 - proofreading for grammar and mechanics
- Composing writing in word processing software (Word, Google Docs)

Date Created/Updated: January 1, 2026