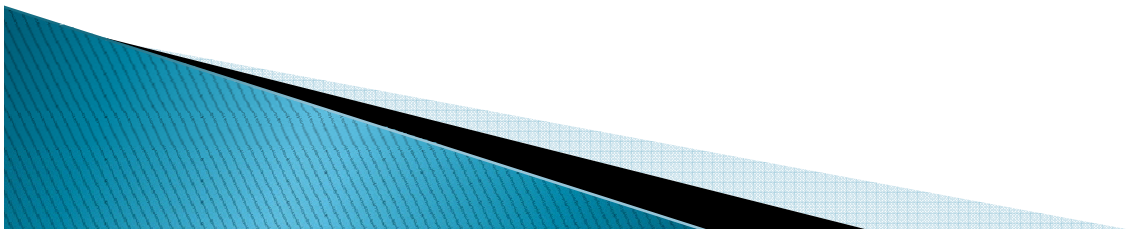


Improving Your Students' Writing

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October 16, 2009

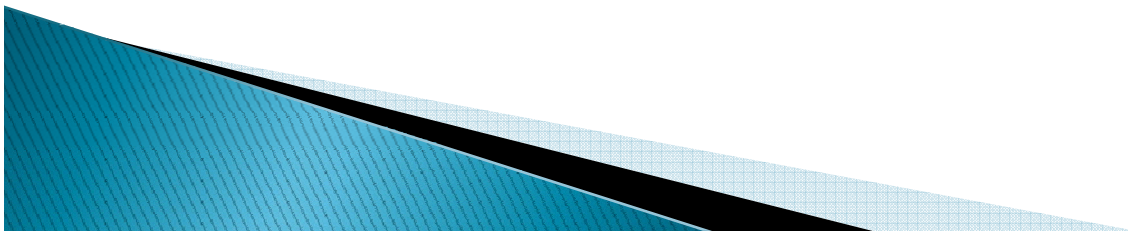
**Why don't we have students
write more?**

What are the barriers?



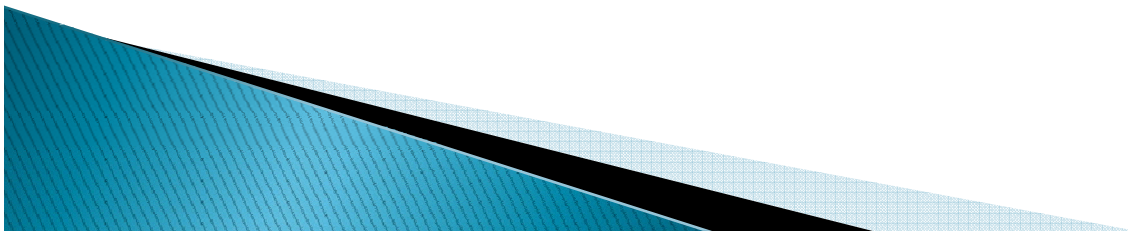
Why should we have students
write more?

What are the benefits?



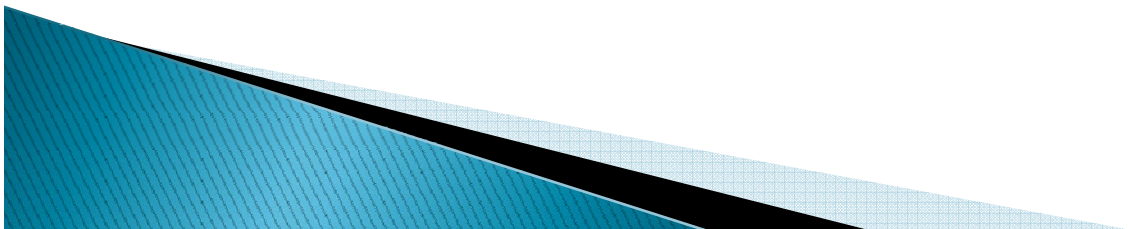
What do you think of this writing assignment prompt?

Write a 5–8 page research paper on a topic relating to something we covered in class this semester. Use at least three outside sources of information. The paper will be due December 4, 2009. No late papers will be accepted.



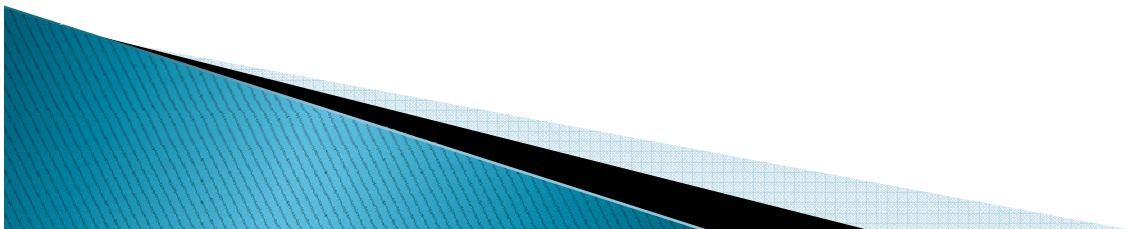
Features of an Effective Assignment Prompt

- ▶ **Task and Purpose** – explain what you want students to do in the paper, and why.
- ▶ **Writer's role** – to inform? persuade? critique? incite?
- ▶ **Audience** – who should be addressed?
- ▶ **Process** – what procedures should be followed? when are the due dates?
- ▶ **Format** – specify page length, margins, spacing, etc.
- ▶ **Criteria** – provide a rubric with your grading criteria.
- ▶ **Models** – provide examples of good papers.



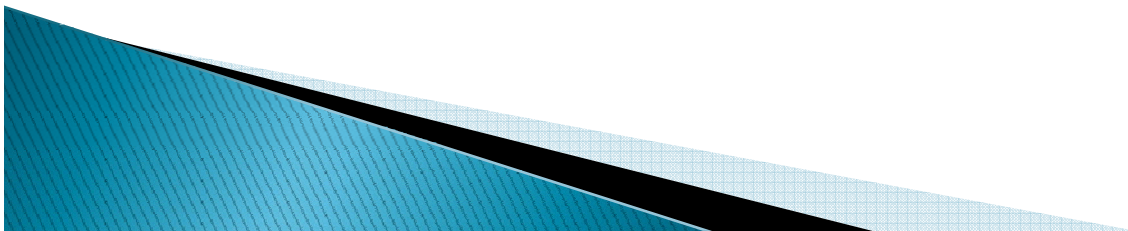
Alternatives to Term Papers

1. Tasks that Link Course Concepts to Students' Personal Experience or Previously Existing Knowledge
2. Explaining Course Concepts to New Learners
3. Thesis Support Assignments
4. Problem-Posing Assignments
5. Data-Provided Assignments
6. Frame Assignments
7. Role-Playing or "What If"-type Assignments
8. Summaries or Abstracts of Articles or Course Lectures
9. Dialogues or Argumentative Scripts
10. Cases and Simulations



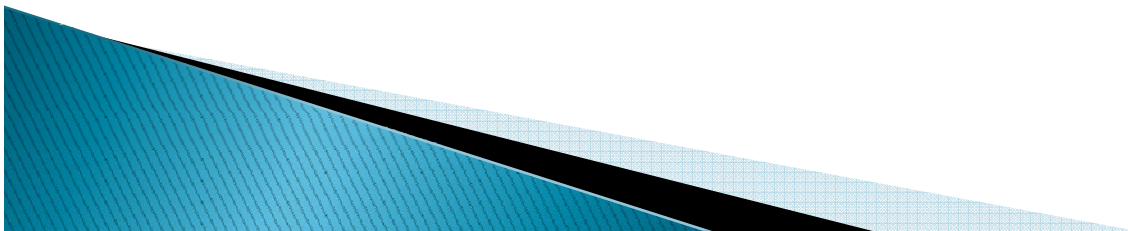
Evaluating students writing

- ▶ Build evaluation into the assignment from the beginning
- ▶ Show students how they will be evaluated – handout the rubric with the assignment
- ▶ A sample writing assignment and rubric
- ▶ Create your own rubric



Use the University Writing Center

- ▶ Give us your assignment sheets for distribution to tutors.
- ▶ Ask us to come to your class. We can talk to your students about the writing center or some aspect of writing.
- ▶ Give us your feedback.
- ▶ After your students come to the writing center, you'll receive an email with a summary of the tutor session.



Contact Us

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