

## Unit 1: “Good Writing” Analysis Prompt

For this assignment, you will be doing an analysis of a specific writing term (one that is important to your own writing process) and its significance to writing. To do this, you will interview (three) 3 people you would describe as “good writers.” You will ask them questions about this writing term, how they understand it, and how these use this term in practice in their writing process. You will then analyze that interview data. The findings of these interviews will be the focus of the argumentative essay that you will create.

### Learning Goals:

- Develop a more complex understanding of the writing process and the terminology that we use to describe writing
- Learn to build an argument by selecting and analyzing primary data (from your interviews)
- Select relevant sources and integrate them to expand and contextualize your primary data findings
- Gain appropriate peer review practices for participating in a community of writers

### Week-by-Week Schedule

Week 1	Introducing the Study of Writing and Readings on the Writing Process
Week 2	Understanding the “Good Writing” Analysis and Ethical Interviewing Practices
Week 3	Coding Interview Data and Developing Argument about Writing Term
Week 4	Rhetorical Source Use, Selecting Evidence from Interviews, and Drafting the GWA
Week 5	Effective Peer Review Practices and Revision Strategies
Week 6	Individual Conferences, Revision Workshop, and Final Copyediting

### What your Project is:

Guiding this project is the question: “What is [writing term], and how is it important to the writing process”? In particular, this research question requires that you make two moves:

1. to identify and define the term, and
2. to explain how it impacts the writing process. Your purpose in this assignment is to make an evidence-based argument about a term related to writing and how it shapes the writing process.

### What this Paper Should Look Like:

Your paper should have an **introduction**, where you introduce the reader to your chosen writing term, and where you lay out your aim for the paper and how you will accomplish it. In particular, we are going to look at introductions borrowing from Swales’ description of the “moves” of writing an academic paper’s introduction, called the CARS moves:

1. Establishing territory (or background)
2. Establishing a niche or gap (a problem or “missing piece” to which you respond)

[This file is supplemental material to Olivia Imirie, *Defining Writing Lingo: Using Interviews to Investigate Language about Writing and the Writing Process*, prompt 9.1 (2025), doi: 10.31719/pjaw.v9i1.196]

3. Occupying the niche or gap (or how your argument/paper fills this niche or gap).

Your paper should describe your process of data collection and analysis (e.g. the **methods** you used in order to answer your research question). Your paper should describe what you found as a consequence of following these methods in your **results and discussion** sections. You'll pull together two sources of information here: your interview data via transcriptions/notes and secondary sources describing the writing process.

Finally, your paper will have a **conclusion**, where you identify how this writing term applies to *your* writing process and why this term is important to understanding writing. You will also use your conclusion to further double-down on your definition of your writing term and its significance to the writing process.

#### Other Guidelines for Writing:

- Paper length: this will become a paper of 1250-2000 words double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri font.
- You'll use at least 2 sources (no more than 3).
- You should document your source use in MLA or APA
- We'll take this through at least 2 drafts before submission: all submitted drafts should be complete drafts (e.g. 1250-2000 words, 2 sources, using some system of citations & including a work reference/citation page).

Based on our readings and conversations in class, we have several different writing terms that you can analyze and ask your interviewees about. I've provided a list below of options. If you want to analyze a term that is not listed below, you should first ask me about the term you want to use. This is so I am aware of what you want to do in your project and can make sure you still fulfill the goals of the assignment. Either way, you should select **ONE** term to analyze for this project.

**You should choose a term that is significant to your own writing process.** Think about what you do when you write, what you believe is important to good writing, and/or what you enjoy most about writing. After you've decided on **ONE** of these features of your own writing process, focus on this as your term.

## Writing Terms

- |                              |                |                  |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| • Genre                      | • Thesis       | • Writer's block |
| • Drafting                   | • Audience     | • Peer review    |
| • Significance to the reader | • Organization | • Brainstorming  |
| • Research                   | • Flow         | • Outlining      |
| • Argument                   | • Planning     | • Sources        |
| • Revision                   | • Evidence     | • Credibility    |
|                              | • Voice        | • Style          |