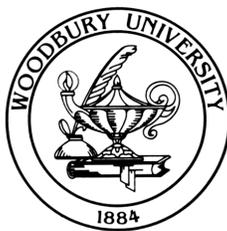


WOODBURY
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED IN 1884

STUDY GUIDE

English Placement Exams and Portfolios
and
Math Placement Exams

(for both freshman and transfer students)



English Placement Exams: Freshmen and Transfer Students (revised 3/25/2015)

For your general information, here is the sequence of English or WRIT courses at Woodbury University:

WRIT Course Sequence:

1. WRIT 100 Bridge to Academic Writing
2. WRIT 111 Academic Writing I
3. WRIT 112 Academic Writing II
or WRIT 212 Rhetoric & Design

Prerequisite:

- English Placement
English Placement or WRIT 100
English Placement or WRIT 111
Transfer Portfolio Placement or WRIT 111

You need to choose **ONE** of the following two placement options to determine your first English or WRIT course at Woodbury University:

OPTION (1): Write ONE of two possible timed-essay exams (an option only available to freshmen and international students, *not* transfer students transferring in the equivalent of WRIT 111 or 112). Prepare notes for writing the timed-essay and bring them with you on the Placement Test day.

The timed-essay exam may place you into WRIT 100, WRIT 111, or WRIT 112; or may exempt you from WRIT 112. However, you can only take the timed-essay exam once.

OPTION (2): Submit ONE of two possible portfolios:

- Freshman Placement Portfolio (an option only available to *freshmen*)
- College Writing Placement Portfolio (an option only available to *transfer* and *international* students)

A portfolio allows you to provide us with your best revised writing. Specifically, either portfolio may place you into WRIT 100, 111, or 112; or may exempt you from taking WRIT 112.

On the day that you are scheduled to take your English placement exam(s), you either take the timed-essay exam or submit your placement portfolio in-person.

The Timed-Essay Exam

Timed-Essay Option #1: Thanks to advancements in telecommunications and computer technology such as texting, instant messaging, and social networking media like Facebook, Skype and Twitter, we now communicate with a greater variety of people more frequently than ever before. Advocates of these new forms of communication, including the manufacturers and service providers of these technologies, argue that we are now more “in touch” than ever, and that this is not only good but somehow *essential*. Others, however, including educators and social critics, argue that many people are losing, and perhaps more significantly, failing to develop, traditional in-person communication skills that are essential to the quality of both our personal and professional lives.

Prompt for Timed-Essay Option #1: Based on your experience, take a position on this question: Is technology actually improving the *quality* of communication, or is it actually compromising the *quality* of meaningful human interaction by replacing it with sheer *quantity*? You may write about social media improving or compromising meaningful human interactions, or you may present a different point of view. In any case, you should use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Only write ONE essay: Timed-Essay Option #1 or #2.

Only Timed-Essay Option #2 has the *possibility* of your testing out of WRIT 112.

Prompt for Timed-Essay Option #2: Based on your experience and your reading the following two quotes from *CQ Researcher*, take a specific position on this question: Is technology actually improving the *quality* of communication, or is it actually compromising the *quality* of meaningful human interaction by replacing it with sheer *quantity*? In general, you may write about social media improving or compromising meaningful human interactions, or you may present a different point of view. Specifically, in your essay you need to...

- advocates for a position related to the question
- and demonstrate your knowledge of MLA or APA documentation.

To demonstrate such knowledge, you are required to....

- include TWO paraphrases representing one or both of the following direct quotes.
- and use one, short direct quote from either one of the following two direct quotes.

Through correct use of an in-text citation(s) and/or signal phrase(s), you should not plagiarize in your essay. You should weave aspects from one or both direct quote into your essay.

First Direct Quote

“Internet socializing has become hugely popular, and Web sites that help people meet potential dates, find new friends and keep track of old ones are big business. Hundreds of sites attract tens of millions of users, and more sites come online daily. Born along with the Internet in the early 1970s, online socializing has helped people worldwide link to others with common interests for conversation and support. Nevertheless, new social-networking sites like Facebook and MySpace raise more troubling privacy issues than traditional Internet chat rooms. Visitors to such sites can access not only individuals' posted profiles but also profiles of their friends. Parents and law-enforcement agencies worry that predators can use the information to contact vulnerable teens. Some states are considering requiring tighter security and confidentiality, and a bill introduced in the House of Representatives would require schools and libraries to block teenagers from the sites.”

- From the introduction of the article “Cyber Socializing: Are Internet Sites Like MySpace Potentially Dangerous?” that was written by Marcia Clemmitt and published in *CQ Researcher* on July 28, 2006 in volume 16, issue 27.

Second Direct Quote

“Child advocates say a growing epidemic of “cyberbullying”—the use of computers, cell phones, social networking sites and other technology to threaten or humiliate others—is putting young people at risk, sometimes with deadly consequences. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has labeled “electronic aggression” an “emerging public-health problem.” Court precedents on school discipline and students' First Amendment rights provide limited guidance to educators grappling with the emerging world of cyber

communication, especially transmissions originating off school grounds. Nonetheless, many states and school districts are taking strong steps aimed at curbing cyber abuse. In Congress, bills to provide new funding for online-safety programs have been introduced, but conflicts have arisen over how federal money for such efforts should be spent.”

- From the introduction of the article, “Cyberbullying: Are New Laws Needed to Curb Online Aggression?” that was written by Thomas J. Billitteri and published in *CQ Researcher* on May 2, 2008 in volume 18, issue 17.

In Timed-Essay Option #2, you will NOT be asked to have a “Works Cited” page or a “References” page; you are required only to have in-test citations and/or signal phrases.

To prepare for either timed-essay exam, you may bring notes or an outline to the English placement test session (but NOT an entire draft). Also, to improve your timed-essay or test-taking abilities, google “timed essay test.” Then, read the test-taking tips for writing a timed-essay.

The Freshman Placement Portfolio (an option only available for *freshmen*)

To begin, you should understand that a “portfolio” is a collection of papers. Next, to create the Freshman Placement Portfolio, you need to bring organized, revised, final copies of your papers either written during high school English class(es) and/or newly written papers. Each of the four papers has to have one of the following labels:

- “Reflective Essay”
- “Essay/Research Paper(s)”
- “Formal Response to a Written Text”
- “Personal Narrative”

Your portfolio should consist of four papers. A Freshman Placement Portfolio has to meet all requirements—including having these four kinds of papers—to be read! Here is the definition for each kind of paper:

Reflective Essay

The reflective essay introduces you and your portfolio to English professors at Woodbury University. In this essay, you should describe in detail what processes and considerations went into creating and revising one of your papers. In addition, you explain what “writing” means to you, describe the ways you have developed as a writer, and assess your own writing skills. You might discuss, furthermore, a difficult “writing” situation you have experienced and how you approached it. This essay should give English professors a clear picture of how you see yourself as a writer.

Essay/Research Paper

This category includes personal narratives, editorials, and/or research papers that have a significant or central thesis or question to address. Also, this paper should include information, analyses, and insights. If your aim is to be exempt from WRIT 112, this paper should have a minimum of three sources.

A Formal Response to a Written Text

This essay should respond to a short story, poem, play, or literary book; or to a non-fiction article or book. You may interpret, evaluate, or explain its significance; compare it to other texts; put it into a historical or social context; relate it to your own experiences or values; and/or combine all these approaches.

A Personal Narrative

Your personal narrative should not only tell a story about an event in your life but also indicate the significance of the experience to you. You should include enough relevant detail and information so that we have a clear sense of the experience, setting, and characters; and this writing should also involve reflection and analysis.

Here's how to organize your four papers—your Freshman Placement Portfolio:

1. Provide a cover sheet with this information:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address

2. Label each paper with your original title and the appropriate label that follows:

- Reflective Essay
- Essay/Research Paper(s)
- Formal Response
- Personal Narrative

3. Your papers—not counting your cover page, draft or notes, abstract page, “References” page, or “Work Cited” page—should be a minimum of 12 pages and should not exceed 15, typed, double-spaced pages (8.5”x11”) in 12-point font with standard one inch margins.

Here are some other considerations regarding your Freshman Placement Portfolio:

- Each paper should be free of teachers’ comments, grades, and/or markings.
- You may revise papers after they are returned to you by the teacher (and before inclusion in your Freshman Placement Portfolio).
- During evaluation of your portfolio, originality and creativity are valued (as long as you observe all the submission guidelines).

If you are trying to be exempt from WRIT 112, you are required to submit one ADDITIONAL research paper, not counted in the previously required 12 to 15 pages of your Freshman Placement Portfolio. This additional research paper, however, should not exceed 12 pages, have at least three sources, and be written in a nationally recognized documentation style such as MLA or APA.

Include a completed Portfolio Submission Form (next) with your Freshman Portfolio or your College Writing Portfolio submission.

The College Writing Portfolio (an option only available for *transfer and/or international students*)

You may submit a College Writing Portfolio if you have taken college-level courses or if you have participated in an intensive-English program. Your purpose for submitting this portfolio is to seek *exemption* from taking WRIT 112 by demonstrating minimal or better research writing competency.

This portfolio has to meet the following requirements:

- Submit research papers written in a college or university course
- Submit more than one research paper.
- Submit a minimum of 12 pages and a maximum of 15 pages of research writing (not including title page, abstract, “References” page or “Work Cited” page).

Also, each research paper has to....

- Have a minimum of three sources.
- Be documented according to MLA or APA.
- Include a “References” page (i.e., APA) or “Works Cited” page (i.e., MLA).

Here are some other considerations regarding your research papers:

- Submit your best research papers.
- Avoid providing papers that have teacher’s comments or your grade written on them.
- Consider revising or editing your papers *after* your previous teacher has graded them and *before* you submit them to us.

If you can NOT meet the submission criteria for this portfolio—that is, you do NOT have the research papers—then you should either be transferring in the equivalent of WRIT 111 or participating in a previously described placement test option.)

Here’s how to organize your papers—your College Writing Portfolio:

1. Provide a cover sheet with this information:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address

2. Provide the following information for each paper:

- Paper’s title
- Course’s name
- Course’s professor
- College’s or university’s name
- Semester and year

3. Your papers—not counting your cover page, draft or notes, abstract page, “References” page or “Work Cited” page—should be a minimum of 12 pages and should not exceed 15, typed, double-spaced pages (8.5”x11”) in 12-point font with standard one inch margins.

When submitting your College Writing Portfolio, if your purpose is to request WRIT 112 credit for ONE specific course, then meet all the previously mentioned criteria by submitting ALL your major papers written in that possible WRIT 112 equivalent course. Submit that course's syllabus, too.

SCORING THE TIMED-ESSAY EXAM ONE

Each timed-essay exam is read and scored by two English professors. Your essay will be evaluated on the evidence it provides of your ability...

- to express judgments by taking a position on the issue in the prompt,
- to maintain a focus on the topic throughout the essay,
- to develop a position by using logical reasoning,
- to support your ideas with examples,
- to organize your essay into paragraphs,
- and to use language clearly and effectively according to the conventions of standard written English.

A WRIT 100, timed essay...often has inappropriate vocabulary or word choice.

- May have inappropriate or non-academic words, i.e., too much like written-down speech.
- May have obscure or vague meaning because of inappropriate use of "big" vocabulary or inaccurate use of pronouns or noun substitutes.
- May have evidence of a weak reading history, i.e., unfamiliarity with orthography conventions as read in phonetic spelling, indenting paragraphs, poor phrasing, etc.

A WRIT 100, timed essay...often has uncontrolled sentences.

- May be defined by half or more of the sentences being uncontrolled.
- May have "chunking" of language, i.e., wrong grammar and word order for English.
- May have meaningless sentences or sections.
- May suggest that the writer is rambling, not organizing thoughts.

A WRIT 100, timed essay...often demonstrates a lack of composition lessons.

- May NOT have evidence of using writing as a process.
- May suggest an inability to generate and sustain ideas, i.e., a really short essay.
- May NOT be written in a recognizable or acceptable academic form, i.e., not an essay.
- May not be written in paragraphs or may be one big paragraph.

Students who think they were incorrectly placed into WRIT 100 may request to take a "challenge exam" during the first week of classes.

A WRIT 111, timed essay...demonstrates modest sentence control and paragraph development.

- May have most (maybe not all) of its sentences controlled in terms of sentence boundaries.
- May suggest having a bit of an academic vocabulary or style, i.e., positive word choices.
- May read more like an essay, including examples, not a personal note.
- May include making transitions between sentences and paragraphs.
- May demonstrate using writing as a process (i.e., evidence of prewriting or revision).
- May contain multiple supporting points and a sustained, developed focus.
- May be written in paragraphs.

SCORING THE TIMED-ESSAY EXAM TWO

In addition to meeting previous stated criteria mentioned under the heading, “Scoring the Timed-Essay Exam One,” a student who writes Timed-Essay Exam Two should...

- Exhibit a clear understanding of the conventions of research writing.
- Demonstrate appropriate use of direct and indirect quotes, and in-text citations and signal phrases.
- Include evidence of critical reading skills.

SCORING THE FRESHMAN PLACEMENT PORTFOLIO

Each Freshman Placement Portfolio is read and scored by two English professors.

WRIT 100 Placement: Often, these portfolios are characterized by....

- A lack of substance and/or repeated error(s) that is distracting and sometimes confusing.
- A lack of understanding of the requirements of genres.
- Difficulty generating material: the essays are brief or material is repeated.
- An abundance of apparently irrelevant detail which substitutes for development.
- An inclusion of formulaic writing that relies too heavily on the prompt for its structure and development.
- Little or no evidence of critical thinking, analysis, or synthesis; instead, the writer relies almost entirely on summary and description.
- Ideas may be strung together without clear connections but with confusing syntax.

WRIT 111 Placement: Often, these portfolios are characterized by...

- Some errors.
- A thesis and support for the thesis when appropriate.
- Some evidence of critical thinking.
- Writing that is often uneven and overly relies on outside sources.
- Analysis that is not deep and overly relies on summary and description.
- Writing that suggests, rather than demonstrates, control and understanding the conventions of genre.
- A lack of explanation for opinions or assertions.
- Inconsistent sustaining of a focus in an extended writing.
- Writing that may lack substance because assertions and personal opinions are substituting for rhetorical support.
- A self-reflective essay may appear to be perfunctory or rely on summary and description without developing a central idea.

At the lower to middle range for AW 111 portfolios, the writing may be somewhat formulaic, and connections between texts and ideas may be a part of an exercise like “compare and contrast.” At the upper end of the range, the writing is correct and sometimes powerful. There may be a strong personal voice evident in some of the pieces.

WRIT 112 Placement: Often, these portfolios are characterized by....

- Demonstration of control over language.
- Well-defined and well-supported thesis when appropriate.
- Evidence of critical thinking and thorough (within the page limits) exploration of issues.
- Well chosen, integrated, and documented outside sources.
- Analysis of material, not simply a summary.
- Writing is not just correct but powerful.
- A strong personal voice in many places.
- Connections between the writer and the material or between different texts in significant ways.
- Demonstration of understanding requirements of various genres.
- A personal narrative that effectively uses detail to convey the emotion and significance of the event.
- A self-reflective essay that goes beyond providing a summary description of the portfolio contents and provides support for assertions regarding the importance of writing in the writer’s life, his/her love for writing, and the process of writing.

SCORING THE COLLEGE WRITING PORTFOLIO

These portfolios are measured against two of the learning outcomes for WRIT 112:

- Know how to integrate diverse kinds of documents to explore a chosen topic.
- Acquire research writing competence by using quotations, signal phrases, reference lists, images (e.g., table or illustration), etc. within the framework of MLA or APA documentation.

A College Writing Portfolio demonstrating an adequate-to-advanced understanding of these learning outcomes means that you, the student, are *exempt* from taking WRIT 112 (or in some cases, means that a course may transfer as the equivalent of WRIT 112).

A College Writing Portfolio demonstrating less-than-adequate understanding of these learning outcomes means that the student may be placed into WRIT 100, 111, or 112.

Your participation in the English Placement Program also means that you are granting the Writing Department permission to use Turnitin.com, if need be, to help determine if a paper has been plagiarized.

If you have any questions, you should call or email Richard Matzen, Ph.D., Assistant Chair of the Writing Department: (818) 252-5128 or rich.matzen@woodbury.edu.

Include a completed Portfolio Submission Form (next) with your Freshman Portfolio or your College Writing Portfolio submission.

Portfolio Submission Form

Dear Prospective Student:

By signing this form, you are stating that all the writing in your portfolio is your own, that your portfolio does not contain any incidence of plagiarism, and that your portfolio contains no evidence of any kind of academic dishonesty. In addition, you are granting the Writing Program permission to verify that your papers do not include plagiarism.

Prospective Woodbury Student's Name

Student's Signature

Student's Street Address/Apartment Number

Student's City/State/Postal Code

Student's Home (or Cell) Phone Number

Math Placement Exam Guidelines

The exam consists of Elementary Algebra (Algebra I) and Intermediate Algebra (Algebra II) exercises. Based on your score, placement will be in MA 049, Elementary Algebra, and MA 149, Intermediate Algebra, or a college – level mathematics course. Hint to prepare for the exam: Study high school Algebra I and Algebra II texts.

Sample Problems

Solve the problems. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

On January 5 the temperature on Mount Washington at 6 A.M. was -24°F . At noon on that day, the temperature was 8°F . What was the increase in temperature from 6 A.M. to noon?

Circle the correct answer

3°F

8°F

16°F

32°F

Solve the problem

The ordered pair $(x, y) = (2, 3)$ is a solution to the equation $kx + y = 4$. What is the value of k ?

Circle the correct answer

$\frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{2}{3}$

$\frac{3}{2}$

2

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

$$(-1)^3 =$$

Circle the correct answer

-3

-1

1

3

Solve the problem

$$\frac{100s^3 - 80s^2 - 20s}{10s^2}$$

Which of the following is equivalent to the expression above?

Circle the correct answer

$$\frac{10}{s} - \frac{8}{s^2} - \frac{2}{s^3}$$

$$\frac{10 - 80s^2 - 20s}{s}$$

$$10s - 8s^2 + 2s^3$$

$$1,000s^7 - 800s^6 + 200s^5$$

Solve the problem

$$\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{5y}{4} =$$

Circle the correct answer

$$\frac{9xy}{7}$$

$$\frac{x}{3} - 5y$$

$$\frac{4x - 15y}{3}$$

$$\frac{16x - 15y}{12}$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

If $x = 3$ and $y = 2$, then $\frac{4x + 3y}{x - y} =$

Circle the correct answer

-18

-17

17

18

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Which of the following is NOT between -3 and -1

Circle the correct answer

- 4

- $\frac{5}{2}$

- 2

-1.5

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

$$5 \div \frac{3}{10} =$$

Circle the correct answer

$\frac{50}{3}$

$\frac{3}{2}$

$\frac{2}{3}$

$\frac{3}{50}$

Solve the problem.

If a certain person sleeps 8 hours out of everyday, what percent of every day does that person sleep?

Circle the correct answer

8%

25%

30%

$33\frac{1}{3}\%$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Leanne's gas tank was $\frac{7}{8}$ full. After she drove 150 miles, the tank was $\frac{1}{3}$ full. What fraction of a tank full of gas did she use on her trip?

Circle the correct answer

$\frac{8}{11}$

$\frac{5}{6}$

$\frac{7}{12}$

$\frac{13}{24}$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

The solution set of $\sqrt{|x|} = 1$ is

Circle the correct answer

{-1, 0, 1}

{-1, 1}

{-1}

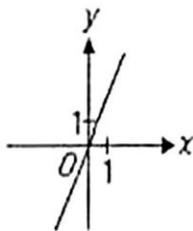
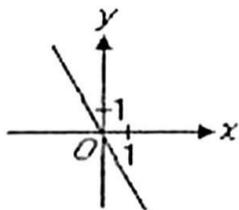
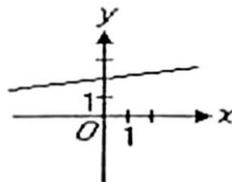
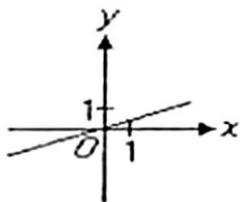
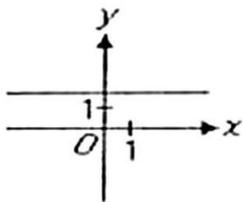
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The empty set

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Which of the following lines has a slope greater than 1?

Circle the correct answer



Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Find the equation of the line through the points (-2, 4) and (5, -1)

Circle the correct answer

$$y = -2x + 4$$

$$y = (-5/7)x + 3$$

$$y = (-7/5)x + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$y = (-5/7)x + 18/7$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Simplify,

$$\frac{\frac{1}{x} - 1}{\frac{1}{x}}$$

Circle the correct answer

$$-\frac{1}{x}$$

$$-\frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$-x$$

$$\frac{1-x}{x^2}$$

$$1 - x$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

If $f(x) = 3 - 2x$ and f^{-1} denotes the inverse of f , then $f^{-1}(0)$ is

Circle the correct answer

- $\frac{3}{2}$

- 1

1

$\frac{3}{2}$

Nonexistent

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

3
 $\sum_{k=1}^3 k^2 (k-1) =$

Circle the correct answer

8

11

14

20

22

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Where defined, $\frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - x - 2} =$

Circle the correct answer

-3

-1

$$\frac{x+2}{x-2}$$

$$\frac{x-2}{x+2}$$

$$\frac{x-1}{x+1}$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Solve the system of equations:

$$3x - 2y = 6$$

$$4y + 12 = 6x$$

Circle the correct answer (only one of the following is correct)

$0=0$

All real numbers

No solution

$$\{(x, y) : 3x - 2y = 6\}$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

A root of $x^2 - 5x + 3 = 0$ is

Circle the correct answer

$$\frac{-5 - \sqrt{13}}{2}$$

$$\frac{-3 - \sqrt{29}}{2}$$

$$\frac{-5 + \sqrt{13}}{2}$$

$$\frac{-3 + \sqrt{29}}{2}$$

$$\frac{5 + \sqrt{13}}{2}$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work.

Simplify leaving no negative exponents:

$$(x^{-4}y^{-1})^{-3}$$

Circle the correct answer

$$\frac{x^{12}}{y^3}$$

$$x^{12}y^3$$

$$\frac{1}{x^{12}y^3}$$

$$\frac{y^3}{x^{12}}$$

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratch work

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Whitten Student Center
7500 N. Glenoaks Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91504