**I Already Know How to Write!**

**Do I Really Need a Course in Composition?**

**Subject area:** English/Language Arts, Composition 2

**Grade level/band**: 11–12

**STUDENT PROMPT SECTION**

1. **Task context**:

The vast majority of high school students will pursue some sort of postsecondary (after high school) education. They may choose vocational schools, community colleges or traditional colleges or universities. In the majority of cases, students will be required to take one or more writing courses. This requirement exists in most majors, not just in those considered “academic” or book-based.

Imagine that the Board of Higher Education in your state is reviewing entry-level requirements at postsecondary institutions in your state. The board is evenly divided over the question of required writing courses, with some advocating for the importance of everyone taking a basic writing course. Other board members believe that students should enroll in courses that are specifically aligned to their majors as soon as possible.

Your task is to write a 5- to 6-page argumentative essay addressing the state Board of Higher Education. You should defend, qualify or refute the following statement: All students entering postsecondary education should be required to take a writing course.

You will need to conduct some research. Be sure to evaluate your sources for credibility, relevancy and/or bias. Some questions to consider as you formulate your thesis: Is there any evidence to prove that students need writing courses in postsecondary education? How are skills developed in high school writing courses different (if they are) from skills taught in postsecondary writing courses? Do all professions and future education opportunities need writing skills?

1. **The task**:

After researching several texts on the question of whether writing courses should be required in postsecondary education, write a 5- to 6-page argumentative paper that supports, qualifies or refutes the requirement.

Your paper should:

* Be organized, coherent, and address the appropriate audience and purpose of your research.
* Support your position with evidence from your research.
* Acknowledge and refute the opposition.
* Employ standard English grammar and usage.
* Use in-text citations and a Works Cited page to cite your sources using MLA citation format or another style that your instructor selects.
1. **Materials/resources**:

Base your research on valid sources, not just Internet sites. What are the different sides of the issue and who will be affected by any change to the current writing requirement? Be sure to consult texts representing multiple perspectives.

1. **Time requirements**:

Depending on your class schedule, you may have up to two weeks to complete this task.