

ABOUT THIS COURSE

The College Catalog describes English 102 as “Composition II: Second in a two-part sequence in English composition. Continuing study of the effective use of language and the composition of longer papers in which students respond to literature and/or nonfiction reading, incorporating information and ideas of others along with their own thinking. A substantial research paper is usually required, in which students make use of sources they have located and evaluated.”

In short, the above statement says that you will write from sources. You will read and analyze book chapters and articles, and then go on to compare and contrast the different points of view and write your own conclusions.

For the first five weeks we will read essays in *Modern American Memoirs*, edited by Annie Dillard and Cort Conley, discuss readings on the Forum, and write short papers.

In the sixth week the course will take a turn. At that time you will research a topic which has had some impact on your family, and you will compare and contrast the views of experts. “Step by Step” is the motto of this course. The research paper will be done in incremental stages, starting with exploration of the topic, a proposal, an annotated bibliography, and then a first and final draft. Along the way you will be learning about library and internet search and the planning and format of the paper.

James D. Lester’s *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide*, 12th edition, will be your constant companion during the second half of the course. The first half of the book explains the assembling and writing of papers. The second half is a reference of bibliographic format.