

English 380W: Advanced Composition  
Dr. Darci Hill, Professor  
Office Evans Complex 206  
Hours M-F 9:30-10:00, 1:45-2:30, others by appt.  
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(The **BEST** way to contact me this semester is by e-mail. Or feel free to leave a message on my office phone, 936-294-1473.

Texts:

*Rhetoric in the Classical Tradition*, by Winifred Horner.

*Contemporary Vocabulary*, by Eliot Smith.

Absences: Two points will be added to your final grade for perfect attendance.

Grading:

You may keep up with your grade status in the class through Blackboard, on the Sam Houston website.

**Basic Assignment Weights:**

Essay I –Children’s story	15%
Essay II “How-to”	15%
Writing Strategies Notebook	20%
Essay III Imitative	15%
Mid-Term	15%
Vocabulary Qz, Reading Quizzes	10%
Short Writing or Oral Assign.	10%

**Course Focus:** The focus of this course is on honing your writing skills. When you complete the course, you should have a working knowledge of an entire array of strategies that will empower you as a more effective communicator, strategies that can be applied to the written page and also to the spoken word.

**Semester Project: Writing Strategies Notebook.** This is a compilation of 25 rhetorical devices that you have studied or discovered during the course of this semester. The treatment of each term will have 3 parts: 1)the definition, 2)an example of the device from written sources, and 3)your own original example.

**Vocabulary Tests:** Establishing and using a rich vocabulary is essential in writing meaningful, compelling prose—and poetry! Our first vocabulary test will be Friday of the 1st week. After that week, vocabulary tests will be given the last ten minutes of each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday or Friday class times. There are no vocabulary makeup quizzes.

Note: This semester Friday classes will not meet on July 25 and August 2. For those two weeks, we will have the vocabulary quizzes on Thursday.

**Spelling:** If you have a problem with correct spelling, invest in a “spelling dictionary” and/or request one of my “Most Frequently Misspelled Words” list. Spelling and grammar errors on out-of-class papers are inexcusable.

**Essays:** Each essay or short written exercise we develop in this class is different. This means that guidelines for each type of essay are different as well. Be sure to follow the specific guidelines provided for each essay or exercise. Note: None of the essays you write in this class will be 5-paragraph essays.