

# The Writer's Circle and The Writer's Odyssey

## Instructional Analysis/Design Overview

### Course Goals

The primary goal of *The Writer's Circle* and *The Writer's Odyssey* is to develop writing and thinking skills that equip students to reflect on deeper meanings of print and visual media and evaluate information in a rapidly changing world.

As adult learners, most students enrolling in these courses enter with a higher quality of experience than when they previously studied composition. Therefore, *The Writer's Circle* and *The Writer's Odyssey* aim to elicit higher levels of analytical thinking and to develop sophisticated writing skills that support students in revealing multiple layers of meaning to their readers. The analytical process students use to discover layers meaning leads them to be more resourceful in asking questions and to pursue a recursive approach to writing.

The recursive nature of the writing process taught in the courses helps students re-think their world and explore new insights about existing situations in their lives. Specifically, these courses seek to:

- Help literal thinkers recognize assumptions, evaluate arguments, and detect inferences.
- Help novice writers gain confidence in their research, communication, and argumentation skills.
- Help students plan, assess, and monitor their thinking and writing processes.
- Ensure academic success while challenging students to grow intellectually, regardless of learning styles.
- Develop a community of learners that promotes discovery and transfer of knowledge to new situations.

### Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete *The Writer's Circle* and *The Writer's Odyssey* will be able to:

1. Identify rhetorical tools. (knowledge)
2. Interpret printed material and visual images to determine implications for everyday life and argumentative writing. (understanding/comprehension)
3. Apply analytical thought processes to discover how and why things happen. (application)
4. Develop a frame of reference to measure the effects and implications of events in everyday life, i.e., filter/sort information to determine what is meaningful to them as individuals. (application)
5. Infer causes and consequences. (analysis)

6. Draw conclusions about events and what they mean in terms of today's world. (synthesis)
7. Recognize subjectivity in various forms of media. (evaluation)
8. Assess the value of various interpretations of past and present events. (evaluation)
9. Engage in continuous revision processes that result in refinement of ideas and expression. (evaluation)
10. Develop an ongoing interest in research and argumentation in order to become more productive and interesting people. (appreciation)

## **Course Materials**

In addition to print and electronic products supplied by the textbook publisher, *The Writer's Circle* and *The Writer's Odyssey* utilize the following resources produced by Dallas TeleLearning to engage students in active learning processes and support instructors in facilitating the courses.

- Student Course Guides that integrate print and video components, recommend strategies students can use to succeed in the courses, and provide a logical sequence of learning activities to help students master targeted skills in each lesson.
- Twenty-six video programs (thirteen for each course) that reinforce key concepts within a real world environment, broaden perspectives on content, and enhance retention through visual elements.
- Interactive courseware consisting of features and activities that enhance the learning experience. Examples of activities under development include: tutorials that help students distinguish between desirable and undesirable writing strategies; self-assessments that test student's ability to recognize rhetorical tools and their application to writing; sample essays that students revise and/or annotate to demonstrate their knowledge of writing strategies.
- Faculty Guides that offer course management tools, including planning and implementation recommendations, a sample syllabus, lesson overviews, learning objectives, student activity descriptions, and cross references between text and video.