



Student Success Office

Tips for Success

How to Succeed in ENG 112

ENG 111 = College Composition I and **ENG 112** = College Composition II. It's like one big course divided into two parts.

ENG 112 definitely builds on the content in ENG 111. This means that it will review and reinforce a lot of the same content, but it will also cover new content, move at a faster pace, and carry greater expectations for longer reading and writing assignments and higher-level thinking skills.

In short, ENG 112 feels like a more challenging course because it is supposed to be. All of the assignments require close reading and clear thinking. Students who take the course seriously and devote themselves to meeting these challenges tend to find the assignments very interesting and satisfying. When they look back on where they started at the beginning of ENG 111 and where they ended up at the end of ENG 112, student often report very positively about their progress, feel proud of their personal and academic accomplishments, and feel ready to handle the reading, thinking, and writing challenges ahead in college and in life.

Here are some steps that can lead to successful outcomes in ENG 112:

- Make sure you get started on the first day. Don't assume that you won't be doing anything important on the first day and that it's OK to skip it. So much information is given out on the first day of class, and it's a great opportunity to make a positive first impression and make new friends.
 - If you are taking the class on campus, arrive early to make sure you know where your classroom is. From time to time the location of classes moves, and if this happens to your class, there will be a sign on the door letting you know the new location.
 - If you are taking the class in Zoom, make sure you have a private place where you can set up your computer (NOT a phone or tablet, a computer) and that you know how to connect. Feel free to contact your professor the day before class if you have any questions about this or if you want to test out your WiFi connection or microphone.
 - If you are taking a completely (asynchronous) online course, log in as soon as you can during the first week, preferably on MONDAY of the first week and look for a module called "Getting Started" or "Week 1" and follow the instructions for any introductory assignments. (**Note:** if you are not feeling very motivated about ENG 112 and/or have difficulties managing your time and keeping up with weekly deadlines, consider taking the class in a different format like on campus or synchronously in zoom. If you are someone who would be more motivated knowing that a professor is taking attendance and calling on you to participate, it might be better to give yourself that advantage.)
- If you are someone who has difficulty getting up early in the morning, don't sign up for an early morning class thinking this time it will be different. Be realistic when you set up your schedule. In fact, try to set

up your schedule so you can arrive on campus at least an hour before your class. That way, if you ever need it, you will have time to finish up an assignment, work with a tutor, or meet with the professor before class.

- If you need help getting up in time for class, set a loud alarm and maybe even a backup alarm, but put it on the opposite side of the room so you actually have to get up to turn it off.
- Try to build a schedule that has time built in to do your homework. Giving yourself an hour before or after class or both really helps students keep up. If that's not possible, build in other times during the week specifically for homework. Students who come to campus just for class and then leave immediately to go to work and don't build protected stretches of time into their work schedule to complete their reading and writing assignments usually do not pass ENG 112. That said, you should always try to come to class, even if you have not completed the homework. But don't assume that you will be able to use class time to complete your late assignment.
- Have your books before the semester begins. This is an easy step for most students because ENG 112 uses the same books as ENG 111. But if for any reason you don't have the books, get them from the bookstore. Most professors give assignments from the texts starting the first week of the semester.
- If you have a set of books but are not sure if they are the correct editions, it's fine to reach out to your professor to ask and make sure. Some professors are away from campus and off contract during the summer and may not be checking their PVCC email, so asking just a week or two before the semester begins should get their attention and still give you enough time to get the right textbooks.
- You will have an opportunity to read the syllabus and ask questions about it in the first week. Pay special attention to the kinds of assignments, information about how you will be graded, and what the policies are for late work and attendance, including how they affect your grade.
- Don't keep questions to yourself. If you don't want to ask in class, stay after or come to office hours. You can also always email your professor to ask a question. When doing so, it's a good idea to say which class you are in before you ask your question.
- Make a habit of visiting the Writing Center to work with tutors on your major writing assignments. Tutors can help you get started, can help along the way, or can help you with your final proofreading. Students who visit the Writing Center at least two times tend to finish with higher grades than ENG 112 students who don't. Remember that now you can visit the Writing Center in person or through Zoom. Both are really easy to set up. The more you do it, the more comfortable you will be with including this support in your writing process.
- Try to attend all of your classes. Don't schedule medical or other appointments during class time. If parents or others schedule your appointments for you, give them your class schedule, and let them know that you are not available during your scheduled class time. Don't schedule appointments with advisors or tutors during class time. You are expected to be in class during class time. If something comes up and you have to miss a class let your professor know. Check Canvas to see what the class did in your absence. Do that stuff. If you have questions about the assignments, ask the professor. Try to have the work completed and ready to turn in on time at the next class. This is much better than not coming to class and waiting until the next class to ask if you missed anything important.
- Make every effort to be on time for class and stay for the entire class.
- If you need extra time on an assignment or a little help, ask for it. It really is OK to ask for that, and your professors will be glad to help during office hours or at some other mutually convenient time.
- If you feel yourself starting to fall behind, contact your professor right away. Try to not let a small problem become a big one before alerting your professor.
- If you have a long reading assignment, try to break it into shorter sections and take a mini-break between the sections. Annotating the readings really helps. Ask your professor to show you good ways to annotate the reading assignment if you don't know what that is.