



ABOUT WAC WRITING & RESEARCH WORKSHOPS (THIRD & FOURTH-YEAR COURSES)

Students at OCADU are asked to bring together studio, research, and writing. They must also consider the culture of their discipline, visual culture, and context in relation to their own creative production and then bring it all together in a range of visual and written texts. The facilitated workshops below support students in accomplishing these communication and writing endeavors in third and fourth year. These workshops are 60 to 90 minutes long.

For first and second-year WAC courses, there is a series of shorter [workshops available](#).

TIPS for Faculty:

1. These in-class workshops are most effective when in synch with an upcoming assignment; you are encouraged to discuss timing of workshop delivery so that it may best support students' coursework.
2. Please send in a booking request by following [this link](#).
3. You can contact Rebecca Diederichs (rdiederichs@ocadu.ca) to discuss which workshop might best support your students' coursework.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Strategies for Generating Ideas and Expanding Research Investigations

Students gain insight and strategies into ways that they might initiate idea generation and direct their academic and studio research. Activities guide students to ways of assessing appropriateness of research to their field of study and discipline, developing questions for research, and expanding these into research for studio and written projects. *Recommended anytime during the FALL or WINTER Term.*

2. The Annotated Bibliography – using it to support research, writing and studio practice

Students learn ways to critically engage with, and evaluate, sources to better integrate their annotated bibliography into, and with, their research, writing, and studio practice. Working in pairs, students will be given a hypothetical project as a starting point, then assess a written article and together draft the components of an annotation. They will note the validity of the article based on the parenthetical information available and propose ways that this single resource opens up avenues to further research areas related to the project. Results and observations will be shared and discussed. *Recommended for the mid-or-later half of the FALL Term or early in the WINTER term.*

3. Critical Reading and Analysis of a Fourth-Year Thesis Paper

Beginning with discussion, then guided by a number of questions, students work together to analyze a fourth-year research paper (in their field). Together they will be invited to discuss the structure, components, thesis, etc. of the example paper, and encouraged to consider and expand on questions relevant to the expectations and goals for their own upper-level research support paper. *Recommended for the latter half of the FALL Term or early in the WINTER term.*

Preparation: Instructors are asked to select a paper from their previous cohort. PLEASE NOTE: The author of the paper must grant permission for its use even though the paper will be photocopied with name blocked. A PDF,

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)
Third and Fourth-Year Writing and Research Workshops
2019 – 2020



along with research paper guidelines, needs to be forwarded to the WLC facilitator 2 weeks in advance of workshop date.

4. Articulating Studio Practice

Following a brief presentation and discussion about writing and concept development, students engage in writing exercises that activate critical thinking about their intentions, decision-making as applied to their studio and academic research, and the discipline-specific vocabulary necessary to write about their work.

Recommended for the latter half of FALL term or early in the WINTER term.

Preparation: Please have students bring either actual art or design project/proposal or documentation of their work to this workshop.

5. Writing an Artist Statement or Design Pitch

From a brief presentation and discussion to group work, students delve into the complexity of writing an artist statement or design pitch. The workshop addresses vocabulary development, brevity and clarity, the artist/design statement versus the biography, the value and usefulness to creative and professional practice, and the broad applications of these kinds of statements. *Recommended for the WINTER term.*

Preparation: Please have students bring either actual art or design works or documentation of their work to this workshop.