

Attendance and Being Prepared

Attending class regularly is essential to a student's success in writing courses.

Showing up for class is, of course, the first step in attendance. During class periods students will engage in a variety of activities that are vital to the writing process, including:

- **giving and receiving peer response**;
- receiving instructions for assignments;
- getting the opportunity to ask questions and get **clarification**;
- **critically** engaging a variety of texts under the guidance of your instructor;
- **participating** in large and small group discussions and activities;
- and receiving instruction on specific areas of the writing process.



It is important for students to recognize that in-class activities will often build upon each other. This means that when a student misses a class, she or he not only misses the activities and material covered in that class period, but also may be confused by or miss out on some of the information covered in activities in subsequent class periods because they will build upon activities that the student missed during the absence.

Attendance is also an important component of **building classroom community**. During class time students will be given the opportunity to **engage** in activities and **conversations** that will help build rapport and trust with each other and the instructor. Building community in the writing classroom is vital to **giving and receiving effective feedback** throughout the course because it allows each student to both know and trust her or his classmates and instructor. This trust enables students to take the feedback they are given seriously because they that the **community** is trying to help each person grow as a writer. This process also allows each student to give tactful, honest, and useful feedback to her or his peers that will positively impact their growth as writers.

While attending class is clearly important, simply showing up for class isn't sufficient for attendance. Each student must also be prepared for class in order for attendance to be truly effective in helping improve the student's writing.

Being prepared for class means arriving at the classroom on time, having completed all required reading for that class period, having taken time to **think** about the assigned readings, and, on days when drafts are due, with a complete draft in hand. This allows students to fully participate in the various activities of the classroom and make attendance count. When a student misses deadlines to complete reading or writing assignments, she or he is not able to fully engage in the discussions and/or get feedback on her or his drafts that will help with revision. In turn, this means that while the student might be physically present for a class period, she or he will not be able to fully participate in the classroom community, which will result in the student's inability to learn from classmates and the instructor. Students who arrive to class unprepared affect other members of the classroom community. Often other students become frustrated with unprepared students, and may even lose trust in that student and her or his ability to **contribute meaningfully to the classroom community**.