



FACULTY OF  
**NURSING**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# Scholarly Paper Assignment: Exploratory Paper

**Dr. Roger Graves**

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, University of Alberta

# Roger Graves

---



## Roger Graves

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum  
Professor, EFS

February 13, 2009

- wac
- c4w
- writing initiatives
- webmail
- efs

I'm new to the University of Alberta, having come from the University of Western Ontario where I was Director of the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. In my new position here I'll be working with faculty and students across the university as part of the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative. I will also be working with students and faculty in the Department of English and Film Studies.

I am the author, co-author, or editor of five books and 29 articles, including Writing Instruction in Canadian Universities. My current research interests include the development of doctoral student writing, writing assignments across disciplinary fields, and rhetorical approaches to text encoding. Currently I serve as co-Vice-President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW) and a member of the Executive Board of the Canadian

**Recent presentations**  
This page contains links to pdfs of slides displayed at presentations I've given.

**Books**  
This page displays the covers and descriptions of books I've authored, co-authored, or co-edited



**Blog: Thinking About Writing**  
A new blog on writing-related issues

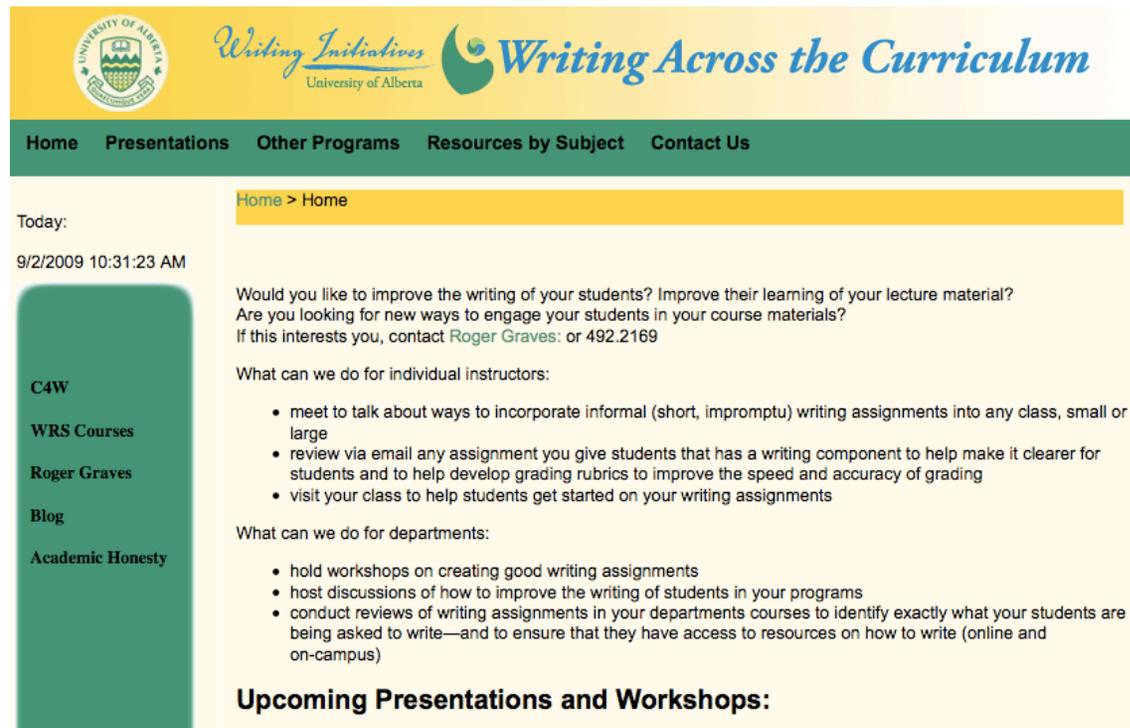
---

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~graves1/index.html>



# Writing Across the Curriculum

---



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Writing Across the Curriculum website. At the top, there is a yellow header with the University of Alberta logo on the left, the text "Writing Initiatives University of Alberta" in the middle, and the "Writing Across the Curriculum" logo on the right. Below the header is a green navigation bar with links for "Home", "Presentations", "Other Programs", "Resources by Subject", and "Contact Us". The main content area has a yellow background. On the left, there is a green sidebar with a white background containing links for "C4W", "WRS Courses", "Roger Graves", "Blog", and "Academic Honesty". The main content area starts with a breadcrumb "Home > Home" and a timestamp "Today: 9/2/2009 10:31:23 AM". The main text asks if the user would like to improve student writing and provides contact information for Roger Graves. It then lists services for individual instructors and departments, each with a bulleted list of activities. Finally, it has a section for "Upcoming Presentations and Workshops".

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Writing Initiatives  
University of Alberta

Writing Across the Curriculum

Home Presentations Other Programs Resources by Subject Contact Us

Home > Home

Today:  
9/2/2009 10:31:23 AM

C4W  
WRS Courses  
Roger Graves  
Blog  
Academic Honesty

Would you like to improve the writing of your students? Improve their learning of your lecture material? Are you looking for new ways to engage your students in your course materials? If this interests you, contact [Roger Graves](#): or 492.2169

What can we do for individual instructors:

- meet to talk about ways to incorporate informal (short, impromptu) writing assignments into any class, small or large
- review via email any assignment you give students that has a writing component to help make it clearer for students and to help develop grading rubrics to improve the speed and accuracy of grading
- visit your class to help students get started on your writing assignments

What can we do for departments:

- hold workshops on creating good writing assignments
- host discussions of how to improve the writing of students in your programs
- conduct reviews of writing assignments in your departments courses to identify exactly what your students are being asked to write—and to ensure that they have access to resources on how to write (online and on-campus)

**Upcoming Presentations and Workshops:**

<http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/WAC/>

---



# The writing process

---

## Getting started

- Explore the assignment
- Make rough notes
- Pick a tentative topic



## Getting feedback

- Make an appointment at a writing centre
- Get feedback on your draft/revise

## Revising

- Work on style and lower order concerns
- Proofread, consult checklist for assignment



## Purpose/goal

---

Write a four page paper, excluding cover page and references, informing the reader of your position on the following proposition:

- ▶ “The use of point-of-care technology in clinical nursing practice creates a barrier in developing an effective therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the client.”



## Points to ponder/consider

---

- ▶ Is technology a gift to nursing? Why or why not?
- ▶ In what ways might the use of technology impact nurses' effectiveness in integrating evidence-based practice?
- ▶ How might clients be impacted by the use of technology?
- ▶ What influencing factors could affect how a client perceives the use of technology?
- ▶ What ethical issues might arise from the use of technology? How do these issues relate the Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses?



# Take a position

---

▶ Agree

▶ Disagree



# Exploratory paper questions

---

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Nursing and technology</b>
Researchable question	On the whole, has point of care technology improved the delivery of nursing care in the last 20 years?
Your position	Point of care technologies that enable nurses access to patient records and second opinions from the patient's room convey great benefits and enhance the patient's sense of being well-looked after.



# Organizing your paper

---

- ▶ **Cover page:** use your student ID number
- ▶ **Abstract?**
- ▶ **Introduction:** background information, a clear statement of your thesis, a statement of aim/purpose of your paper and a description of how the paper will unfold based on the evidence you will provide;
- ▶ a description of how you have narrowed the topic and definitions specific to your topic area
- ▶ **Conclusion:** Summary of key points in body; connect to thesis, relate to the evidence you provided



In what ways might the use of  
technology impact nurses' effectiveness  
in integrating evidence-based practice?

---



How might clients be impacted by the use of technology?

---



What influencing factors could affect  
how a client perceives the use of  
technology?

---



What ethical issues might arise from  
the use of technology? [relate to the  
Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses]



# Drafting/Revising

---

- ▶ Get a “trusted reader” to get feedback
- ▶ Consider using other students in the course or the writing centre for this
- ▶ Ask readers to read for specific purposes: thesis, structure, transitions, development of a particular paragraph or idea



# Don't hand in a first draft

---

Towards the due date, switch your focus from

**higher-order concerns** (arrangement, arguments, evidence) to

**lower-order concerns:** proofreading, grammar, citation format, grammar/spelling

