

# CRITERIA

for a

# WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE

---

## YOUR SYLLABUS

Teaching a writing intensive course requires designing and executing a syllabus that conforms to the *Writing In the Disciplines* (WID) teaching philosophy. Your syllabus should exemplify the following six characteristics:

1. It should include some writing every week.
2. It should include informal and low-stakes writing.
3. It should ask students to read each other's writing.
4. It should count writing for at least 20% of the grade.
5. It should give students the opportunity to revise more than one assignment.
6. It should include 8-10 pages of formal writing assignments. This requirement can be met in two ways:
  - a. A single, staged and revised essay; or
  - b. A writing portfolio with several staged and revised components.

For more information on these these characteristics of a writing intensive (a.k.a., "WIDed") course, see the companion document, 'How to WID a Course: a step-by-step guide'.

## YOUR PORTFOLIO

At the end of the year, you will be asked to submit a portfolio that shows off your new writing intensive course. The portfolio should contain the following components:

1. Before and after versions of your WIDed syllabus
2. Copies of the all the writing assignments included on your new syllabus
3. Samples of both well-executed and poorly-executed student work
4. Excerpts from your teaching journal

### WRITING FELLOWS CAN HELP!

For help with any of the above, get in touch with one of the Writing Fellows who is assigned to your strand.

**Jessica Del Vecchio** (Critical Thinking): [jdel\\_vecchio@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jdel_vecchio@gc.cuny.edu)

**Daniel Harris** (Quantitative Literacy): [danielwharris@gmail.com](mailto:danielwharris@gmail.com)

**Paul Holchak** (Reading): [paulholchak@aol.com](mailto:paulholchak@aol.com)

**Josh Kinlaw** (Research): [jkinlaw@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jkinlaw@gc.cuny.edu)

**Gerry Martini** (Critical Thinking): [amartini@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:amartini@gc.cuny.edu)

**Alison Powell** (Research): [alisonwhitneypowell@gmail.com](mailto:alisonwhitneypowell@gmail.com)