This course supports the assessments for LAT1. The course covers 6 competencies and represents 2 competency units.

Introduction

Overview

This course will help you develop competency in research paper writing and help prepare you for other research and writing-based courses of study at WGU.

In this course, you will demonstrate the competency needed to be a critical reader and writer. In this course of study, you will:

- determine an arguable, researchable topic;
- formulate a research question;
- develop and defend an arguable thesis statement;
- evaluate sources for relevance and credibility;
- create proper citations in APA format;
- synthesize and paraphrase source materials effectively;
- understand writing and revision as a process; and
- write a well organized research paper.

Watch the following video for an introduction to this course:

Note: View the video in full screen at 720p for best results.

Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 6 competencies:

- **Competency 105.1.1: Reading with Comprehension**
  The graduate constructs meaning by using multiple strategies to comprehend a variety of texts.

- **Competency 105.1.2: Reading Critically**
  The graduate identifies relationships among ideas, points of view, and language choices by reading critically.

- **Competency 105.2.1: Inquiry and Research**
  The graduate selects information from oral, written, or electronic sources to inform an audience about complex subjects.

- **Competency 105.2.2: Evaluating Information**
  The graduate accurately evaluates the validity, reliability, and significance of information in a given context.

- **Competency 105.2.3: Documenting Sources**
  The graduate documents sources consistently and accurately.

- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

Course Mentor Assistance
As you prepare to successfully demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course mentors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, mentors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course mentors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.

Successful students report that working with a course mentor is the key to their success. Course mentors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you're studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don't work out on your first try, course mentors act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course mentors for the duration of your coursework, and you are encouraged to contact them as soon as you begin. Course mentors are fully committed to your success!

Preparing for Success

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

Learning Resources
The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course. For many resources, WGU has provided automatic access through the course. However, you may need to manually enroll in or independently acquire other resources. Read the full instructions provided to ensure that you have access to all of your resources in a timely manner.

Automatically Enrolled Resources

You can access the learning resources listed in this section by clicking on the links provided throughout the course. You may be prompted to log in to the WGU student portal to access the resources.

MindEdge
You will access MindEdge modules at the activity level within this course of study.

- Language and Communication: Research

Pacing Guide
The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe.

- Pacing Guide: Language and Communication: Research

Note: This pacing guide does not replace the course. Please continue to refer to the course for a comprehensive list of the resources and activities.
Research Paper (Part I)

The activities in this section will introduce you to the first steps of research writing:

- introduction to research and writing
- getting started
- finding and using sources
- creating an annotated bibliography.

Introduction to Research and Writing

Students often ask, "Why do I need this course?" and "How will it help me in my future courses at WGU and in my career?" The introduction found in MindEdge Module 1 ("Course Introduction") will give you the context for the course, along with helpful strategies and hints for success in the course.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.1.2: Reading Critically**
  The graduate identifies relationships among ideas, points of view, and language choices by reading critically.
- **Competency 105.2.1: Inquiry and Research**
  The graduate selects information from oral, written, or electronic sources to inform an audience about complex subjects.
- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

MindEdge: Course Introduction to Mechanical Correctness

Work through the following in:

MindEdge Module 1: Course Introduction

- 1.0 ("Module Introduction")
- 1.1 ("Context for Writing")
- 1.2 ("The Writing Process")
- 1.3 ("Getting Help From Course Mentors")
- 1.4 ("A Context for Writing: Module Checklist")
- 1.5 ("Module Conclusion")
- 1.6 ("Module 1 Post-Test")
- 1.7 ("Module Feedback")

Note: The MindEdge modules are interactive. Within the platform, you have note-taking abilities, a community forum where you can ask questions, and numerous opportunities to practice the concepts and test your knowledge of them before you attempt the assessment.

Getting Started

Your starting point for the research paper is to find a topic that interests you. This sometimes
requires preliminary research. The next step is to identify a research question and arrive at an arguable, researchable thesis. MindEdge Module 2 ("Getting Started") will lead you through this process step-by-step, and will also define terms such as "researchable."

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.1.2: Reading Critically**
  The graduate identifies relationships among ideas, points of view, and language choices by reading critically.

- **Competency 105.2.1: Inquiry and Research**
  The graduate selects information from oral, written, or electronic sources to inform an audience about complex subjects.

- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

Watch the following video:

*Note: View the video in full screen at 720p for best results.*

**MindEdge: Getting Started**

Work through the following in:

- **MindEdge Module 2: Getting Started**
  2.0 ("Introduction")
  2.1 ("Selecting a Topic")
  2.2 ("Develop Your Ideas")
  2.3 ("Preliminary Research")
  2.4 ("Identifying Your Research Question")
  2.5 ("The Thesis Statement: Your Research Roadmap")
  2.6 ("Module 2 Frequently Asked Questions")
  2.7 ("Getting Started: Module Checklist")
  2.8 ("Module Conclusion: Following the Research")
  2.9 ("Module 2 Post-Test")
  2.10 ("Module Feedback")

**Language and Communication Mentors**

Submit your thesis to a course mentor.

Once you have decided on your topic and have formulated a research question, you will then develop an arguable working thesis statement. You may be ready to proceed at this point; however, before moving forward, contact the course mentors by either posting your topic in the MindEdge community forum or by using the "Contact a Mentor" icon. This will help you determine if your topic and question are suitable for further tasks, and can save you valuable
time and frustration down the road.

**Finding and Using Sources**

It is very important to choose credible sources to use for this assessment. MindEdge Module 3 ("Finding and Using Sources") will give you step-by-step assistance in finding ten appropriate sources for your research paper.

Work through the following in:

**MindEdge Module 3: Finding and Using Sources**

- ("3.0 Introduction")
- ("3.1 Using sources: Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary")
- ("3.2 Types of Sources: Books, Periodicals, and Everything Else")
- ("3.3 Understanding Scholarly, Non-Scholarly, and Academic-Trade Sources")
- ("3.4 The WGU Library")
- ("3.5 Using Sources Effectively")
- ("3.6 Module 3 Frequently Asked Questions")
- ("3.7 Finding and Using Sources: Module Checklist")
- ("3.8 Using Sources Effectively: Conclusion")
- ("3.9 Module 3 Post-Test")
- ("3.10 Module Feedback")

**Creating an Annotated Bibliography**

An annotated bibliography helps you discover what sources are most relevant to your argument and what sources provide the most credible support for your argument.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.1.2: Reading Critically**
  The graduate identifies relationships among ideas, points of view, and language choices by reading critically.

- **Competency 105.2.1: Inquiry and Research**
  The graduate selects information from oral, written, or electronic sources to inform an audience about complex subjects.

- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

**MindEdge: Creating an Annotated Bibliography**

Work through the following in:

**MindEdge Module 4: Annotated Bibliography**

- 4.0 ("Module Introduction")
- 4.1 ("The Annotated Bibliography: Why and How")
Before submitting RLAT task 1 in TaskStream, review the checklist at the end of MindEdge Module 4 ("Annotated Bibliography").

Also, before submitting your task for evaluation, please submit it through Turnitin.com for an originality report to check the similarity match and accurate formatting of your sources. You can access the Turnitin originality report feature within TaskStream.

If you have any further questions or would like a more detailed list, please see the scoring rubric for this task in TaskStream. Your work should meet the minimum requirements set by the scoring rubric. You can also contact a course mentor if you need additional help. When you feel confident that you have met the requirements, submit your task to TaskStream.

Research Paper (Part II)

The activities for this subject will introduce you to the next steps in writing a research paper:

- paraphrasing and synthesizing your sources
- creating a writing plan
- citing your references

Paraphrasing and Synthesizing Your Sources

Now that you have an annotated bibliography, you want to turn your research into usable information for your paper. You will decide how to incorporate information from your sources into your research paper. To do this, you will use paraphrasing, direct quotations, and synthesis. MindEdge Module 5 ("Paraphrase and Synthesis") will help you determine which of those options are most appropriate in any given situation, and will offer opportunities for practice along with samples of each.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.1.1: Reading with Comprehension**
  The graduate constructs meaning by using multiple strategies to comprehend a variety of texts.

- **Competency 105.2.2: Evaluating Information**
  The graduate accurately evaluates the validity, reliability, and significance of information in a given context.

- **Competency 105.2.3: Documenting Sources**
  The graduate documents sources consistently and accurately.
Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process
The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

MindEdge: Paraphrase and Synthesis

Work through the following in:

MindEdge Module 5: Paraphrase and Synthesis

- 5.0 ("Introduction")
- 5.1 ("Introduction to Synthesis and Paraphrase")
- 5.2 ("Paraphrase")
- 5.3 ("Synthesis and Research in the Real World")
- 5.4 ("Module 5 Frequently Asked Questions")
- 5.5 ("Paraphrase and Synthesis: Module Checklist")
- 5.6 ("Conclusion and Overview of Task 2 Requirements")
- 5.7 ("Module 5 Post-Test")
- 5.8 ("Module Feedback")

Application: RLAT Task 2

You are now ready to complete RLAT task 2: Synthesizing and Paraphrasing.

Go to TaskStream and begin work on RLAT task 2.

Before submitting this task, check the RLAT Task 2 checklist at the end of MindEdge Module 5 ("Paraphrase and Synthesis").

Be sure to check your submission against the scoring rubric before submitting your task for evaluation. Make sure that your work meets the minimum requirements set by the scoring rubric.

If there are any areas where you do not understand a concept, please ask a course mentor for assistance.

Submit your task through Turnitin.com for an originality report to check the similarity match and accurate formatting of your sources. You can access the Turnitin originality report feature within TaskStream.

Submit your task in TaskStream.

Create a Writing Plan

When you begin to write a research paper, you need to organize your thoughts in some way. You may like to use an outline or a clustering tool to show the flow of your main points and the elaborated details for each. This topic will guide you through creating a visual organizer or outline to assist you in organizing your research paper. MindEdge Module 6 ("Organizing Your Essay") offers examples of various types of writing plans along with practice exercises to fit your
research into an appropriate writing plan.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.1.1: Reading with Comprehension**
  The graduate constructs meaning by using multiple strategies to comprehend a variety of texts.

- **Competency 105.2.2: Evaluating Information**
  The graduate accurately evaluates the validity, reliability, and significance of information in a given context.

- **Competency 105.2.3: Documenting Sources**
  The graduate documents sources consistently and accurately.

- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

**MindEdge: Organizing Your Essay**

Work through the following in:

- **MindEdge Module 6: Organizing Your Essay**

  - 6.0 ("Introduction")
  - 6.1 ("Introduction to Organizational Tools")
  - 6.2 ("Main Claim, Major Points, and Evidence")
  - 6.3 ("Choosing an Organizational Technique")
  - 6.4 ("Supporting Your Claim With Evidence")
  - 6.5 ("Activity: Practice with Organizing Ideas")
  - 6.6 ("Getting to Work: Drafting your Visual Organizer or Outline")
  - 6.7 ("Module 6 Frequently Asked Questions")
  - 6.8 ("Organizing Your Essay: Module Checklist")
  - 6.9 ("Conclusion and Overview of Task 3 Requirements")
  - 6.10 ("Module 6 Post-Test")
  - 6.11 ("Module Feedback")

**Application: RLAT Task 3**

You are now ready to complete RLAT task 3: Create a Writing Plan.

Go to [TaskStream](https://www.taskstream.com) and begin work on RLAT task 3.

Before submitting this task, use the checklist at the end of MindEdge Module 6 ("Organizing Your Essay").

Be sure to check your submission against the scoring rubric before submitting your task for evaluation. Make sure that your work meets the minimum requirements set by the scoring rubric.
If you need additional help, please contact a course mentor.

Submit your task through Turnitin.com for an originality report to check the similarity match and accurate formatting of your sources. You can access the Turnitin originality report feature within TaskStream.

Submit your task in TaskStream.

**Research Paper: The Final Product**

The activities for this section will ask you to draft, revise, and edit your research paper in RLAT task 4 before turning in a final paper for LAT task 5.

**Drafting a Research Paper**

You are now ready to turn your writing plan into a research paper. As you write, keep in mind that this research paper must be written in third person and must be free of personal opinion. You also have to make sure that each of your main points is backed up with research. MindEdge Module 7 (“Writing and Revising the First Draft”) will give you hints and instruction on how to turn your writing plan into a first draft. It will also give you opportunity for practice along with samples of student work to help guide you.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.2.3: Documenting Sources**
  The graduate documents sources consistently and accurately.
- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.
- **Competency 105.3.3: Mechanics of Writing**
  The graduate correctly applies rules of grammar, syntax, and punctuation.

**MindEdge: Writing and Revising the First Draft**

Work through the following drafting activities in:

**MindEdge Module 7: Writing and Revising the Fast Draft**

- 7.0 (“Module Introduction”)
- 7.1 (“Fast First Drafts and Revised Drafts”)
- 7.2 (“Introduction to Revision and Editing”)

**Revising and Editing a Research Paper**

Generally, working with a draft involves both revising and editing. Either process can take place at any time and as many times as you feel it is necessary.

Revising includes taking something out, adding something in, reorganizing the presented information, substituting one piece of information for another, replacing entire sections, or starting over.
Editing includes checking for writing conventions such as punctuation, spelling, grammar, and APA document and citation formatting.

You will find practice exercises and examples for revising and editing your paper in MindEdge Module 7 (“Writing and Revising the Fast Draft”).

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.2.3: Documenting Sources**
  The graduate documents sources consistently and accurately.

- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different audiences and purposes.

- **Competency 105.3.3: Mechanics of Writing**
  The graduate correctly applies rules of grammar, syntax, and punctuation.

**Obtain an Outside Review**

After you have revised and edited your draft, you might want to share your draft with someone you know and ask your reader the following questions:

- Does my topic and thesis make sense to you?
- Are each of my main points supported with evidence?
- Do all of my main points and supporting evidence clearly support and connect back to my thesis?
- What are the strengths of my draft?
- What information is unclear?

*Note: Because the revision and edit process is part of the assessment, ourse mentors cannot review your draft.*

Once you have finished revising and editing your draft, save your document as "Draft with Revisions" to submit in TaskStream.

**Writing a Revision Summary for a Research Paper**

In addition to submitting a marked-up, revised draft of your paper, the final part of RLAT task 4 asks you to write a summary of the revision and editing strategies you used in your writing process. You can find help for completing this task in MindEdge Module 7 (“Writing and Revising the Fast Draft”).

*Note: The revised draft and revision summary in RLAT task 4 will prepare you to heavily revise, edit, and polish your final paper, which will be submitted in LAT Task 5.*

**MindEdge: Revising the First Draft**

Work through the section entitled "Your Revision Summary" as well as the following in:

MindEdge Module 7: Writing and Revising the Fast Draft
Application: RLAT Task 4

You are now ready to complete RLAT Task 4: Drafting, Revising, and Editing a Research Paper.

Go to TaskStream and prepare to submit your work for RLAT task 4.

Before submitting this task, check to see if you have completed all necessary requirements by reading the checklist at the end of MindEdge Module 7 ("Writing and Revising the Fast Draft").

Be sure to check your submission against the scoring rubric before submitting your task for evaluation, and make sure that your work meets the minimum requirements set by the scoring rubric. If you need more assistance, please contact a course mentor.

Submit your task through Turnitin.com for an originality report to check the similarity match and accurate formatting of your sources. You can access the Turnitin originality report feature within TaskStream.

Submit your task in TaskStream.

The Final Research Paper

In this final task, you will revise and edit your research paper draft from RLAT task 4 into a completed and final research paper. Passing the draft in RLAT task 4 does not guarantee a pass on the final paper. The final version of your research paper will be graded on a 5-level scoring rubric, which is stricter than the 3-level rubrics used in the RLAT tasks 1 through 4.

Look closely at the feedback you received via RLAT task 4's evaluation report from the graders and plan to do more revisions and editing to your final paper. This is a common step in the writing process.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 105.2.3: Documenting Sources**
  The graduate documents sources consistently and accurately.

- **Competency 105.3.2: Writing as a Process**
  The graduate applies a process approach to creating effective writings for different
audiences and purposes.

- **Competency 105.3.3: Mechanics of Writing**
  The graduate correctly applies rules of grammar, syntax, and punctuation.

**MindEdge: Your Final Research Paper**

Complete the following in:

**MindEdge Module 8: Your Final Research Paper**

- 8.0 ("Module Introduction")
- 8.1 ("Preview of Task 5 Requirements")
- 8.2 ("Reviewing Your Research Paper's Thesis Statement and Major Points")
- 8.3 ("Paragraph Development and Staying on Topic")
- 8.4 ("Revisiting Your Introduction and Conclusion Paragraphs")
- 8.5 ("Final Checks")
- 8.6 ("Submission")
- 8.7 ("Module 8 Frequently Asked Questions")
- 8.8 ("Your Final Research Paper: Module Checklist")
- 8.9 ("Conclusion and Review of Task 5 Requirements")
- 8.10 ("Module 8 Post-Test")
- 8.11 ("Module Feedback")

**Submitting Your Research Paper: LAT Task 5**

Before submitting your final paper in LAT Task 5, make sure you work through MindEdge Module 8 ("Your Final Research Paper"). In the MindEdge LR, you will also find sample papers, APA assistance, and general writing help. Keep in mind that you have a limited number times that you can submit the final task.

Before submitting your final paper in LAT Task 5, review the rubrics in TaskStream and make sure your paper meets the minimum requirements.

If you need additional assistance, please contact a course mentor.

Before submitting your task for evaluation, please submit it through Turnitin.com for an originality report to check the similarity match and accurate formatting of your sources. You can access the Turnitin originality report feature within TaskStream.

Go to TaskStream and submit your LAT task 5.

*Note: Your LAT task 5 is limited to four attempts (an initial submission and three revisions). If you do not pass your LAT task 5 on the first try, it is recommended that you contact a course mentor to help you work on revisions for your second attempt.*

**Final Steps**

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to
complete the assessments associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessments, schedule and complete your assessments now.

The WGU Library

The WGU Library
The WGU Library is available online to WGU students 24 hours a day.

For more information about using the WGU Library, view the following videos on The WGU Channel:

Introducing the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).*

Searching the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).*

Center for Writing Excellence: The WGU Writing Center

If you need help with any part of the writing or revision process, contact the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Whatever your needs—writing anxiety, grammar, general college writing concerns, or even ESL language-related writing issues—the CWE is available to help you. The CWE offers personalized individual sessions and weekly group webinars. For an appointment, please e-mail [writingcenter@wgu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@wgu.edu).

Feedback

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:

- Course Feedback

Accessibility Policy

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at [ADASupport@wgu.edu](mailto:ADASupport@wgu.edu). Further information on WGU's Accessibility policy and process can be viewed in the student handbook at the
following link:

- Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities