

UCI First-Year Writing Placement AY 2021-2022 [SAMPLE]

[Canvas course space landing]

Welcome! This Canvas course space will take you through a four-step assessment that will help us to determine which of our writing courses will be the best starting place for you at UC Irvine.

First, you will be asked to complete two short writing tasks in which you can demonstrate your strengths as a writer and which will also enable us to see which aspects of your writing and communication skill set we can help you develop in our courses. You will then take a short survey that asks about your history and experiences with academic literacy.

Once you start, you will have **2 hours** to complete the following tasks:

- **Part I.** Writing Task: Summarizing a Source (30 minutes recommended)
- **Part II.** Writing Task: Comparative Analysis (45 minutes recommended)
- **Part III.** Survey on Past Experiences with Reading and Writing (15 minutes recommended)
- **Part IV.** Reflective Self-Assessment (30 minutes recommended)

You may return to this course space and complete the assessment at any time between Friday, June 11 and Sunday, June 20; however, once you start the assessment, you will need to complete all four parts in one sitting, so be sure to set aside two hours to dedicate to it. We recommend finding a quiet space where you can focus and ensuring that you have a reliable internet connection. The assessment is self-contained, and you do not need to do anything to prepare for it other than set aside the time and space.

While this assessment will lead to a writing course placement rather than a grade, please be aware that [UCI's Academic Integrity Policy](#) is in effect. It is essential that your responses be your own work to ensure that your writing course placement is the best fit to support your academic journey.

If you have any questions, please email writingplacement@uci.edu

[Canvas quiz intro page]

Your responses to this assessment will help us to determine which of our writing programs and writing course will be the best starting place for you at UC Irvine.

You have **2 hours** to complete the following tasks:

- **Part I.** Writing Task: Summarizing a Source (30 minutes recommended)
- **Part II.** Writing Task: Comparative Analysis (45 minutes recommended)
- **Part III.** Survey on Past Experiences with Reading and Writing (15 minutes recommended)
- **Part IV.** Reflective Self-Assessment (30 minutes recommended)

Please don't start this assessment (using the 'Take the Quiz' button below) until you are ready to begin, because starting will begin your 2-hour timer. Be mindful of your remaining time.

We recommend that you compose your answers outside of Canvas (such as in Word/Google Docs) and then input responses when you are ready. We are asking you to copy and paste into the answer box so that if there is an internet/WiFi connection problem, you will not lose your work.

[UCI's Academic Integrity Policy](#) will be enforced. [Examples of academic misconduct](#) include but are not limited to:

- Copying and sharing the contents and materials of this assessment
- Plagiarism
- Getting help for your answers, such as searching the internet or working with another person

[Start of quiz]

Part I. Summarizing a Source

- 30 minutes recommended

Read and summarize the following *UCI News* article in one (1) substantial paragraph. You may use brief direct quotes as needed, but use mostly your own words to concisely and objectively summarize the article

[Text A will appear here]

Enter your response to Part I here.

Part II. Comparative Analysis

- 45 minutes recommended

Compare the *UCI News* article you just summarized, and a research article it references. In two to three (2-3) paragraphs, establish a guiding claim for your comparison, using evidence from each of the two sources to support that claim. As in Part I, you may use brief direct quotes as needed, but you should use mostly your own words.

[Text B will appear here.]

Enter your response to Part II here.

Part III: Survey about Your Experiences Reading and Writing

- 15 minutes recommended

Here you are asked to answer a series of questions about your habits and past experiences as a reader and writer. It is designed to help you and us understand how much experience you've had with college-level literacy expectations. Your honest responses will help us to find the most appropriate starting point for you here at UCI. We hope you find this survey interesting!

Question 1

In what country/countries did you attend high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12?

- United States of America
- Country/countries that are not the United States
- If Country/countries that are not the United States: Specify country/countries in which you attended high school and during what grades [text entry box]

Question 2

If you attended high school outside of the United States of America, what was the primary language of instruction at your high school?

- Not applicable because I attended high school in the United States
- Enter primary language(s) of instruction here [text entry box]

Question 3

If you attended high school outside of the United States of America, how long did you attend?

Scale: Entire School Year, Half School Year, Less Than Half School Year

- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade

Question 4

What language or languages are you most comfortable with?

- English Only
- English and Another Language or Languages
- A Language or Languages Other Than English

Question 5

In your writing classes at UCI you will read a wide variety of texts in different genres – for example, essays, novels, poems, newspaper articles, scholarly articles from different disciplines, popular books, scholarly books, infographics, textbooks. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

In high school, I read a wide variety of texts in different genres.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 6

In your writing classes at UCI, you will read intensively, often amounting to 50–80 pages of reading per week. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

In high school, I took classes that had a substantial amount of reading.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 7

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I have effective notetaking and other study strategies to help me comprehend and remember reading material.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 8

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I almost always complete reading assignments for school, even if the text is difficult to read or boring.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 9

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

When I do not know a word that I have read, I look up the definition in a dictionary or online.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 10

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

When I am given an assignment to write an essay or another type of assignment that asks me to submit a polished piece of writing, I have writing process strategies that I use for starting, drafting, crafting, and revising my writing – for example, reading the prompt carefully, brainstorming, discussing with others, outlining, writing multiple drafts, and making significant structural revisions as part of the process.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 11

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I willingly ask for help from my peers, the instructor, or other people when I am struggling with a writing assignment.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 12

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

In high school, I often revised my writing over multiple drafts, responding to feedback I received from instructors, peers, or other people.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 13

In your writing classes at UCI, you will have writing assignments that ask you to integrate in the same piece of writing several different types of sources as evidence for your claims – for example, a government publication, a few different scholarly articles, and articles written for a general audience. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

In high school, I had writing assignments that asked me to integrate several different types of sources in support of a claim.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 14

In your writing classes at UCI, you will write for different purposes. You will be asked to reflect, summarize, analyze, synthesize, describe, narrate, argue, and persuade. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

In high school, my writing assignments asked me to write for different kinds of purposes.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 15

In your writing classes at UCI, you will be asked to write several essays per class, and some of the assignments will ask for longer pieces of writing of between 8-10 double-spaced pages. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

In high school, I wrote essays that were between 8-10 double-spaced pages or longer.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 16

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

When using sources in my writing, I know how to give appropriate credit to the authors I cite – for example, quoting or paraphrasing appropriately – and I understand how to avoid plagiarism.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 17

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I format my work correctly, and I thoroughly edit my writing for English grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Question 18

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I participate in classes by attending regularly, preparing for class, and actively involving myself in discussions while in class or in my class's online environment.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Part IV: Reflective Self-Assessment

- 30 minutes recommended

As if you are addressing your first UCI writing instructor, reflect honestly on your strengths as a reader and writer, and identify areas in your communication skills you'd like to improve. In this 1-3 paragraph reflection, you should address the following questions: What challenges did you face in the two brief writing assignments (Part I and Part II) of this assessment? Did anything in the survey (Part III) surprise you about the expectations of college-level reading and writing? Finally, if you would like to communicate anything else about your high school education and/or past experiences with reading and writing, please share that information in this reflection.

Enter your response to Part IV here.

Academic Honesty Statement

× In accordance with the [UCI Academic Integrity Policy](#), I certify that the answers here are my own work and that I will not share the contents of this test.

End

Thank you for participating in UCI's First-Year Writing Placement! Should you have further questions, please contact: writingplacement@uci.edu. You will receive your writing placement by [x].