

# I. College Level Expectations in English Language Arts

## A. Sample Course Syllabi and Course Objectives

### I.A2) Writing Seminar - Course Objectives

#### [Boston University](#)

#### Writing I-Course Objectives

Core units include the following:

- Unit I – Writing from primary sources  
*Summary of several readings to capture the main idea or key elements of a passage*
  - Note-taking and other study skills
  - Quotation technique and proper documentation of sources
  - Review of the Academic Conduct Code
- Unit 2 – Imitation and Analysis  
*Imitation of style and grammatical structure of a given passage*
  - Grammatical analysis of the style of the passage, with appropriate vocabulary and grammar assignments
  - Analysis of the passage that draws from the insights gained from the imitation and leads to larger conclusions about the meaning of the passage and how the imitation influenced what students said
- Unit 3 –Thesis-driven Argument  
*Close analysis of selected passages in 4 to 5-page paper*
  - Introduction of thesis, argument, evidence
  - Rhetorical analysis and critical thinking
  - Development of ideas of “evidence” as based in valid, convincing interpretation of text
- Unit IV – Thesis-driven Argument Extended  
*Close analysis from a question prompted by a single reading and sustained through textual interpretation*
  - Emphasis on moving from general area of interest to more specific question to a more focused thesis or proposition open to proof
  - Development of more subtle thesis, more persuasive argument, better evidence
  - Introduction of complexity, qualification, consideration of contrary viewpoints
  - Improvement in sense of narrative flow of a good essay and the dramatic conflict often present in arguments that encounter opposition.
- Unit V – Oral Presentation  
*5-minute presentations in preparation for final paper*
  - Skills of correct and concise speech
  - Ability to offer constructive comments, criticisms to peers
  - Ability to assimilate comments and criticisms into working draft for longer paper
- Unit VI – Concluding Essay  
*Synthesis of several works in the form of a thesis-based argument relevant to the theme of the seminar in 6- to 8-page paper*

**For related information, see:**

**Section 1C. College Placement – Writing - 1.C1) [Sample Question and Rubric](#)**