

# WST Directed Self Placement

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## Start of Block: Default Question Block

### Welcome to The SJSU WST Directed Self Placement

All students, after earning 60 units and completing two lower-division writing courses with a C- or better, are eligible to enroll in upper-division/advanced writing courses that are designed to teach you how to write for *your* discipline. Whether you are an Engineering major who needs to learn how to write project reports, a Sociology major who needs to learn how to write policy proposals, or a Business major who needs to learn how to write a business plan, SJSU offers courses that will help you reach your learning goals.

### What is the WST Directed Self Placement?

The **WST Directed Self Placement** is a series of online activities designed to orient you to upper-division and advanced writing at SJSU. The activities ask you to think about your previous writing experiences, to explore upper-division and advanced writing at SJSU, and to decide which course(s) are right for you.

Activity 1: Reflect On Your Experiences As a Writer

Activity 2: Learn About Upper Division/Advanced Writing Courses at SJSU

Activity 3: Choose the Course That Is Best For You

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### Q2 Your Participation Is Voluntary and Your Answers Will Remain Confidential

Your participation in the WST Directed Self Placement is voluntary and all of your answers will remain confidential. Your responses will NOT be shared with your instructors.

Your data will be stored in Qualtrics with other Writing Program data behind the SJSU firewall. And in any public report we publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible for anyone to identify you or your answers. We will use this data to improve our upper-division and advanced writing programs at SJSU, and to share our findings and insights with other writing programs across the country.

Have you read and do you understand your right to consent and confidentiality?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Q3 To Begin, Click on the Blue Arrow at the Bottom of the Page

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**Q4 Name, SJSU ID Number, and a Sample Paper**

Before you get started, please fill in your name and SJSU Student ID number. Also, please upload a sample research paper (one that required you to use sources) that you recently wrote for a class at SJSU or your community college.

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Q5 Your Name:

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Q6 Your SJSU Student ID Number:

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Q7 Please upload a research paper (one that required you to use sources) that you recently wrote for a class at SJSU or your community college:

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**Q8 Activity 1: Reflect On Your Experiences As a Writer**

Thinking about the sample paper you shared with us, please answer the following questions.

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Q9 How challenging was it for you to find sources to use in your paper?

- Extremely challenging (1)
  - Very challenging (2)
  - Moderately challenging (3)
  - Slightly challenging (4)
  - Not challenging at all (5)
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Q10 How challenging was it for you to read and summarize your sources for use in your paper?

- Extremely challenging (1)
  - Very challenging (2)
  - Moderately challenging (3)
  - Slightly challenging (4)
  - Not challenging at all (5)
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Q11 How challenging was it for you to use your sources to support *your own* arguments and points in the paper?

- Extremely challenging (1)
  - Very challenging (2)
  - Moderately challenging (3)
  - Slightly challenging (4)
  - Not challenging at all (5)
- 

Q12 How comfortable did you feel sharing draft(s) of this paper in classroom workshops, with a real audience that included your fellow writers and instructor?

- Extremely comfortable (1)
  - Moderately comfortable (2)
  - Slightly comfortable (3)
  - Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (4)
  - Slightly uncomfortable (5)
  - Moderately uncomfortable (6)
  - Extremely uncomfortable (7)
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Q13 How comfortable did you feel giving advice on your peers' drafts and asking for their advice on your draft?

- Extremely comfortable (1)
  - Moderately comfortable (2)
  - Slightly comfortable (3)
  - Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (4)
  - Slightly uncomfortable (5)
  - Moderately uncomfortable (6)
  - Extremely uncomfortable (7)
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Q14 Overall, how confident did you feel writing this paper?

- Extremely confident (1)
  - Moderately confident (2)
  - Slightly confident (3)
  - Neither confident or unconfident (4)
  - Slightly unconfident (5)
  - Moderately unconfident (6)
  - Extremely unconfident (7)
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Q15 Do you feel you could be successful in an advanced writing course that requires you to research, write, revise, and edit three to five writing assignments like the one you shared with us in a single semester?

- Yes, I am confident I would be successful. (1)
- I am not sure. (2)
- No, I am not confident I would be successful. (3)

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**Q16 For the following six questions, think in general about your experiences writing in college so far.**

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Q17 So far in your college classes, has writing been a good experience for you?

- I usually enjoyed writing. (1)
  - I sometimes enjoyed writing. (2)
  - I rarely enjoyed writing. (3)
  - I never enjoyed writing. (4)
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Q18 Have you ever been given any specific feedback—by a teacher, tutor, or friend—about **strengths** in your writing? If so, what kinds of things did they mention? (You can check as many types of feedback as apply.)

- No, not that I can remember. (1)
  - Reviewers generally liked my writing. (2)
  - Reviewers praised my content/ideas. (3)
  - Reviewers praised my organization. (4)
  - Reviewers praised my expression/language use. (5)
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Q19 Have you ever been given any specific feedback—by a teacher, tutor, or friend—about **weaknesses** in your writing? If so, what kinds of things did they mention? (You can check as many types of feedback as apply.)

- No, not that I can remember. (1)
  - Reviewers felt my ideas were unclear or needed more detail. (2)
  - Reviewers criticized my organization. (3)
  - Reviewers criticized my language use (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, or other mechanics.) (4)
  - Reviewers never seemed to like anything about my writing. (5)
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Q20 If you have been given feedback—about strengths or weaknesses or both—how have you responded?

- I don't recall getting feedback. (1)
  - I understood the feedback and was able to use it to improve my next writing project. (2)
  - I understood the feedback but did not always know how to use it to improve. (3)
  - I did not always understand the feedback but I tried, nonetheless, to use what I did understand to improve. (4)
  - I did not always understand the feedback so I could only rarely use it to improve. (5)
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Q21 Do you enjoy reading and read for pleasure outside of school? This may include books, magazines, and/or other publications, both on- and offline.

- Yes, I enjoy reading and do so frequently. (1)
  - I sometimes enjoy reading. (2)
  - I only read when I have to. (3)
  - I dislike reading or feel very uncomfortable reading. (4)
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Q22

Outside of assigned reading for school, what types of things do you read? (Choose as many as apply.)

- I never read for pleasure outside of school. (1)
  - Newspapers (online or print) (2)
  - Magazines (online or print) (3)
  - Books-fiction or nonfiction (4)
  - Websites, social networking sites, blogs (5)
  - Other (6)
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## **Q23 Activity 2: Learn About Upper Division/Advanced Writing Courses at SJSU**

We offer two upper division/advanced writing courses at SJSU: 100A and 100W.

100A is an extra semester of advanced writing instruction, available to students who feel they need more practice in academic writing before enrolling in 100W. 100A prepares you for 100W through extensive practice in drafting, feedback, and revision to help you develop your writing competency. 100A is offered by both the Linguistics and Language Development Dept. (LLD) and the English Dept.

100W is an advanced, upper-division writing course designed to introduce you to writing in your discipline. Students learn how to write like an Engineer, for example, or write like a Psychologist or an Artist, by learning and practicing the writing and research strategies of your discipline. 100W is offered by almost department on campus.

[Learn More About 100A](#)

[Learn More About 100W](#)

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Q24

**Review Your Answers**

Before choosing the course that is right for you, take a moment to review your answers to the questions in Activity #1:

<The Student's answers are automatically displayed>

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### Q25 Activity 3: Choose the Course That Is Best For You

The choice is yours. Are you ready for 100W? Or would you like an extra semester of advanced writing instruction before you enroll in 100W?

#### How To Decide

Think back to your answers in Activity #1. Did you find the paper you shared with us challenging to research and write? Are you comfortable giving and receiving feedback throughout the writing process? Do you feel confident as a writer?

If you feel that writing is challenging or difficult for you, or if reviewers generally give you more feedback on your weaknesses than your strengths, you should enroll in 100A. You will receive an extra semester of practice writing, feedback, and revision that will help you be successful in 100W and all of your writing-intensive classes.

If, on the other hand, you feel that writing is about as challenging for you as your other classes, and you feel confident as a writer, you should enroll in 100W. You are ready to learn the writing and research strategies of your discipline.

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Q26 What will you choose?

- 100A (1)
- 100W (2)

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*Display This Question:*

*If What will you choose? = 100W*

Q27 Please choose the 100W class you plan to enroll in from the dropdown menu below.

▼ AMS 100W - Writing in the Humanities (4) ... TA 100W - Writing Workshop: Theatre Arts (41)

End of Block: Default Question Block

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