

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Script for Better Assignments for Better Student Writing Workshop**Set-up and general notes**

- Have handouts of Chapter 5 of Kerry Walk (http://writingatqueens.qc.cuny.edu/files/2010/05/Walk_TWW.pdf) and sample assignment (attached).
- Whenever possible, workshop leader should participate in the activities.

Freewrite

2 minutes: Ask participants to write a list of all the verbs that identify writing that they can think of (i.e, describe, analyze, evaluate...). After 2 minutes, each participant should circle one verb.

Introductions

3 minutes: Ask participants to state their names and the writing verb they circled.

Activity 1: Active Reading (10 minutes total)

5 minutes: Participants will read and underline key phrases from Chapter 5 of Kerry Walk.

5 minutes: Active reading. Ask for volunteers to read their underlined key phrases. When other participants hear phrases they also underlined being read aloud, they should join in, and read along.

Activity 2: Assignment Critique and Rewrite (20 minutes total)

5 minutes: Hand out sample assignment and ask participants to read it from the point-of-view of a conscientious student, then write a list of possible missteps this student might make trying to complete the essay.

5 minutes: Have participants volunteer to read aloud selections from their lists.

5 minutes: Ask participants to pretend they are Kerry Walk and write a letter to “Professor Krugman” offering advice about how to revise the assignment.

5 minutes: Ask for volunteers to share portions of their letters.

Post-Mortem/Wrap-up

10 minutes: Discussion, Q&A. Workshop leader should try to steer the discussion towards the importance of active, task-oriented verbs and clear communication in assignment design.

Economics 123
Professor Krugman

Take-Home Final Exam Essay: Turkey and the European Union

Discuss the controversy over Turkey's membership in the European Union. What are the potential benefits for Turkey? For the European Union? Beyond Europe? What are the arguments for and against membership? Who's making these arguments and why? What are the economic implications? Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and stapled. Sources must be cited, using Chicago style. You must include a list of Works Cited.

This assignment represents the equivalent of a final exam. Therefore, I expect you to put considerable time and energy into it. Papers should be focused, make an argument, and draw on course materials. I want to see evidence of thinking. I will reward originality. Points will be deducted for grammatical and syntactical errors.

It's a good idea to write more than one draft of your assignment. If you need extra help, you can get it in the Writing Center. I recommend this strongly.

Plagiarism is prohibited by Queens College, and any student caught cheating will receive an F on the assignment, fail the course, and be referred to the Dean of students. Don't do it!

My pet peeves:

- Confusion between "there" and "their"
- Pronoun-antecedent disagreement
- Incorrect verb tenses
- Confusion between "it's" and "its"
- Use of the second person ("you")
- Unsupported statements of opinion

Keep these in mind—and be sure you proofread (!) carefully. Finally, remember that college is about thinking. Be sure your paper is analytical..