

Week 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to English 2030, the most exciting class you'll ever take at Sheridan College!

I'm kidding, of course. As a former English composition student myself, I realize that most students look forward to composition classes about as much as they look forward to death by squirrel attack. However, as a composition *teacher*, I can tell you that—believe it or not—this is one of the most important classes you'll take in college. Consider these facts:

- No matter what field enter, the ability to communicate will be an absolute necessity.
- The higher you climb on the corporate ladder, the more time you will spend communicating, whether through writing or speaking.
- Bill Gates once said, "The most important classes I ever took in college were Freshman Composition and Advanced Nerdiness."

Okay, I was kidding again on that last one. But my point is, no matter what professional career you pursue, you will need to be able to communicate clearly and effectively, and this class can help you do that. If you'll put forth the time and effort necessary, I think you'll find this class to be beneficial to your overall career goals.

In this class we'll read and analyze various texts and consider how to prepare and present essays, and we'll engage in on-going discussions about the essays we are reading and writing throughout the course.

So take some time to look around the course, study the syllabus, and get the feel of things. Then go to the Forum area for this week and introduce yourself.

I'm looking forward to working with each of you in the coming weeks. Good luck and have fun!

--Mike

PERSONAL INTRODUCTIONS DISCUSSION FORUM (ungraded)

Please go to the Personal Introductions Discussion Forum link and post a little about yourself. Feel free to respond to your classmates' introductions, although this is not required this week.

READING

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-hanski/read-more_b_5192754.html

Chapters 2, 4 and 5 (.pdf files attached)

WRITING DISCUSSION FORUM

Once you've completed the reading, go to the Writing Discussion Forum link. Review my opening question and respond, and then respond to at least TWO of your classmates throughout the week.

ASSIGNMENT

Complete the Overview of Persuasive Writing summary. Click the link at the bottom of the Week 1 material, follow the instructions, and submit the assignment through that link. Complete this as an MS Word document and follow formatting rules.