

UGA's Writing Intensive Program

Winter 2014 Newsletter

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Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Roden has been involved with the Writing Intensive Program since the very beginning. For him, the program offers invaluable benefits to his students. By exposing **geology majors to geology writing**, he finds that his students improve their writing, learn how to express themselves, and gain critical job training.

Dr. Roden finds that his biggest challenge in the classroom is lack of motivation among his students. They “don’t want to write,” he says. But he’s prepared now to face that obstacle. At the beginning of the semester, he tells his students that writing is good for them. He also relies heavily on support from the WIP TAs. “Class size is a problem,” Dr. Roden says. With so many students, the TAs are an essential support system.

Over the course of his tenure with the Writing Intensive Program, Dr. Roden's approach to writing has evolved. His high stakes assignment about a volcano helps students stay motivated to write and revise. Students work through a drafting process that includes two to three stages, feedback from the WIP TAs, and peer review. In addition to his high-stakes project, Dr. Roden has placed greater emphasis on low-stakes assignments, such as the Phase Diagram Article and Volcano Fact Sheet. According to the syllabus for Geology 4020 - Internal Processes, these assignments let students "practice the scientific writing style." What's more, they have promoted deeper and more sustained investment in the writing process - and, as a result, improved student writing.

Since geology has been a part of the Writing Intensive Program for so long, it is now common knowledge among majors that geology and writing go hand in hand, in the classroom, and in the field. Dr. Roden affirms the professional value of writing intensive geology courses. “You have to write as a geologist,” he says. Future geologists need to be able to write research papers and field reports. They need to be “able to describe what they see.” And Dr. Roden sees that they do that and more.



WIP Resources - Writing Goes Digital

STUDENT resources

[OWL@Purdue](#) - Extremely well-known resource for writing, especially mechanics, grammar, documentation, and practice exercises.

[Writing Commons](#) - Open education resource for writers with articles on genres, writing process, new media, research, and information literacy

[Easy Writer](#) - Bedford St. Martin's open access resource for students; includes exercises, models, and research and writing resources

[Paramedic Method Video](#) - Richard Lanham's procedural video on making writing more concise

TEACHING resources

[UGA's WIP Website](#) - Collection of assignments, syllabi, rubrics, and activities used in writing intensive classes at UGA

[Teaching and Learning in Higher Ed](#) - Support for university teachers who care about teaching and want to improve their practices based on current research

writing SOFTWARE

[As We May Type](#) - Writing software review

"A new crop of startups is gearing up to change the way we write, taking on traditional authoring tools such as Microsoft Word, Google Docs, and WordPress. The newcomers don't just promise to make it easy to create documents or write blog posts—they promise to make you smarter."

[Fargo](#) - for outlining

[Editorially](#) - editing platform

[Medium](#) - somewhere between a blog post and an article

[Svbtile](#) - network plus platform for writing

[Marquee](#) - publishing platform

[Scroll Kit](#) - visual content editor

[Quip](#) - business tool to enable document collaboration, especially geared for mobile use

[Ghost](#) - blogging platform

[Prezi](#) - Presentation and composition software, like PowerPoint but with an unlimited canvas

[Google Drive](#) - Document creation, management, presentation, sharing, and collaboration suite

PROJECT management

[Trello](#) - Collaborative organizational tool; "Trello is the easiest way to organize anything with anyone."

[Dropbox](#) - Syncs and stores documents in the cloud and across devices, and enables shared folders and documents

[Evernote](#) - "Remember everything." The ultimate list software; create, organize, and store notes in notebooks that you can then share or publish to the web.