

OVERVIEW

English II: Expository Writing is built on the premise that the craft of good explanatory and descriptive writing is inseparable from the ability to read widely, critically and efficiently. And so, even as English II consolidates the groundwork done in the English I module it advances in two skill areas, in particular. Firstly, it seeks to enable students to skilfully read pieces in diverse genres—including texts in English relevant to their respective fields of study. Secondly, it looks to empower students to produce a variety of argumentative and explanatory texts. The course also expands on students' grammar and vocabulary skills, as building blocks of written communication, relevant to the academic and prospective professional needs of learners. As in English I, communication proficiency goals are critically integrated with the broader educational, social and professional concerns within the Pakistani postcolonial setting.

LEARNING OUTCOMES**Reading Skills**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify the properties that distinguish expository and descriptive writing from narrative and persuasive texts.
- analyse an argument presented in a text critically and highlight flaws in reasoning.
- skim an essay, article or book chapter and gather the central idea and main points presented in the piece.
- develop speed reading techniques such as space reading, chunking and visualization.
- address barriers to speed reading such as regression, subvocalization etc.

Writing Skills

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- follow the process model to respond to a contextualised expository writing prompt.
- produce short and long texts in genres encountered in their field of study (e.g., for zoology students these may include short lab reports; for history students these may include short biographical pieces).
- use transition phrases and connectors in their writing to build coherence, continuity and unity.
- review a short book, website or documentary in writing.

Academic Vocabulary Skills

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- recognise and use words listed in Coxhead's Academic Word List (intended for academic communication across disciplines).
- use synonymous words and phrases in writing.
- identify and use phrases in Oxford Phrase List, from C1 to C2:
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/wordlists/oxford-phrase-list>
- apply templates for standard moves (e.g. agreeing, disagreeing, summarising etc) in academic writing, as compiled by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein:

<https://garland.usculum.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/I-they-say-or-I-say-Templates.pdf>

Wajid
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