

Recommended Open Educational Resources for an Undergraduate Course in Composition 2
by Laurel Smith

Reading and Writing Strategies:

Bennett, Tanya L. "Writing and Literature: Composition as Inquiry, Learning, Thinking, and Communication." GALILEO Open Learning Materials, 2018, oer.galileo.usg.edu/english-textbooks/15/.

This text begins by reminding students about effective reading strategies. It frames literature in the context of other subjects and explains how everyone can benefit from literary analysis. The second chapter has a unique section on considering one's own values and interests, which helps students remember that their opinion matters. The book also covers critical perspectives, general argument strategies, analysis papers, and research papers. The book has four sections related to elements and strategies of reading specific to four genres (fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction).

This book is a great fit for a Composition 2 course. It helps students envision how literature connects to their lives. For folks using a literature-based Composition 2 course, the connections between lived experience, the experience of others, and one's future plans are critical. When connected with readings that relate to issues students face in their daily lives, this book will yield good research topics and arguments. It could use a section to review the writing process (in addition to the section on the reading process). However, this text covers all the major topics one would need to teach in a second-semester composition course.

Purdue Writing Lab. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide // Purdue Writing Lab." *Purdue Writing Lab*,
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) has long been a leader in writing, reading, and citation guides. This particular guide gives a brief overview of MLA citation and provides examples of in-text and works cited citations. Because the guide provides commonly used citation types, it is less intimidating than a printed handbook.

I use this formatting guide in all my courses. The Purdue OWL also has guides for APA or CMS. I would use this as the citation style guide in my Composition 2 course. (I also encourage folks to use APA if they'd rather.) This particular style guide serves as a way to double-check citations produced from other places (such as library databases) during the research process. It also helps students understand what the parts of a citation mean.

---. "Stages of the Writing Process // Purdue Writing Lab." *Purdue Writing Lab*,
owl.purdue.edu/owl/english_as_a_second_language/esl_students/key_concepts_for_writing_in_north_american_colleges/stages_of_the_writing_process.html.

This source from the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) reviews the writing process and the steps involved in discovering a topic writing a paper. It reminds folks to use brainstorming, drafts, and peer feedback to help them improve their papers.

In a Composition 2 course, this would serve as a review of the writing process for students coming to the second semester of composition. Students taking Composition 2 come from a wide variety of backgrounds. I use this particular reading as a refresher for students who are returning to college and as a way to make sure all the students in the class have the same base of knowledge when we start.

Literature Readings (For Analysis and for Research Topic Ideas):

- Baldwin, James. "Sonny's Blues." *NDSU Creative Writing*,
<https://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/~cinichol/CreativeWriting/323Online/Sonny's%20Blues%20Sonny's%20Blues%20Sonny's%20Blues%20Sonny's%20Blues.htm>.
- Chopin, Kate. "The Story of an Hour" *The Awakening: And Other Stories*. Ed. Pamela Knights. OUP Oxford, 2000. *EBSCOhost*, search-ebSCOhost-com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=363596&site=ehost-live.
- Erdrich, Louise. "The Red Convertible." *The Red Convertible*. *Google Books*,
www.google.com/books/edition/The_Red_Convertible/8hd8luMsiEC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA1&printsec=frontcover.
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *The Yellow Wallpaper*. The Floating Press, 2009. *EBSCOhost*, search-ebSCOhost-com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=314235&site=ehost-live.
- Gonzalez, Ray. "Praise the Tortilla, Praise Menudo, Praise Chorizo." *American Tensions: Literature of Identity and the Search for Social Justice*, edited by William Reichard. New Village Press, 2011. *EBSCOhost*, search-ebSCOhost-com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=1716199&site=ehost-live.
- Hayden, Robert. "Those Winter Sundays." *Poetry Foundation*,
www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46461/those-winter-sundays.
- Hemingway, Ernest. "Hills Like White Elephants." *HCC Learning Web*,
learning.hccs.edu/faculty/selena.anderson/engl2328/readings/hills-like-white-elephants-by-ernest-hemingway/view.
- Hughes, Langston. "The Weary Blues." *Poetry Foundation*,
www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47347/the-weary-blues.
- Jackson, Shirley. "The Lottery." *The New Yorker*, Conde Nast, 26 June 1948,
www.newyorker.com/magazine/1948/06/26/the-lottery.
- Komunyakaa, Yusef. "Facing It." *Poetry Foundation*,
www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47867/facing-it.
- Levis, Larry. "My Story in the Late Style of Fire." *The Selected Levis: Revised Edition*. Ed. David St. John. Rev. edition, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003. *EBSCOhost*, search-ebSCOhost-

- com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=829691&site=ehost-live.
- Olsen, Tillie. "I Stand Here Ironing." *Tell Me a Riddle, Requiem, and Other Works*. Bison Books, 2013. *EBSCOhost*, search-ebSCOhost-com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=619914&site=ehost-live.
- Pound, Ezra. "In a Station of the Metro." *Poetry Magazine*, www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/12675/in-a-station-of-the-metro.
- Rankine, Claudia. "From Citizen: 'You Are in the Dark, in the Car.'" *Poetry Magazine*, www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/56848/citizen-you-are-in-the-dark-in-the-car.
- Shihab Nye, Naomi. "Gate A-4." *Poets.org | Academy of American Poets*, poets.org/poem/gate-4.
- Stevens, Wallace. "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird." *Poetry Foundation*, www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45236/thirteen-ways-of-looking-at-a-blackbird.
- Walker, Alice. "Everyday Use." *Harper's Magazine*, Apr. 1973, harpers.org/archive/1973/04/everyday-use/.
- Williams, William C. "This Is Just To Say." Poetry Foundation, www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/56159/this-is-just-to-say.

These are selected readings can replace a traditional "reader" anthology. I am including these works to show that it is possible to replace short literature works with OER versions of these texts. This is particularly true of poems since even recently published poems are readily available online. This list is meant to be a starting point and is not exhaustive. These readings represent one way to approach Composition 2 (in a two-semester composition sequence).

I selected works that can serve as windows and mirrors for students, reflecting their own experience and giving them a view into a life they may not have experienced. The topics covered include racism, war, grief, PTSD, loss, women's rights, poverty, abuse, beauty, perspective, temptation, inclusion, and others. I would change this list as needed to address different themes during different semesters.

In my Composition 2 course, students analyze a text of their choice from the selected readings for one of the papers. (This includes activity assignments that ask them to analyze the rhetorical situation.) Students are also asked to consider various types of critical theory and apply one theory to one reading of their choice. These particular readings are also used to spark research topic ideas where students must select and narrow a topic.