

Arkansas Tech University

Online Research Commons @ ATU

ATU Faculty OER Book Reviews

ATU Faculty Open Educational Resources

6-2024

Writing Guide with Handbook

Regina St. John

Follow this and additional works at: https://orc.library.atu.edu/oer_reviews



Part of the Rhetoric and Composition Commons

OER Review: An OER – is an Open Educational Resource that allows a faculty member to deliver a course without expense to students. Please refer to the Library Guide to find OER Resources: <https://bit.ly/oersources> By adopting an OER, you could have your course identified as ZTC-Zero Textbook Cost.

*Faculty Member Name: [Dr. Regina St. John](#)
Department: [English and World Languages](#)*

*What OER Book are you reviewing (Title) [Writing Guide with Handbook](#)
Location/ Link where it can be found: <https://openstax.org/details/books/writing-guide>
(direct link inside of OpenStax, an OER library collection recommended by Arkansas Tech’s library)*

Does the author have appropriate authority of standing to release a book? (Professor associated with a university etc..) Yes. This text has three authors who are all college professors: Michelle Bachelor Robinson, Toby Fullwiller, and Maria Jerskey.

For what course are you reviewing this book: ENGL 1013: Composition I

*What is this course’s average enrollment:
Fall---Twenty-two students per section. (35 sections are scheduled now for Fall 2024)
Spring—Twenty-two students per section.(Less sections than in the fall usually)
Summer—Twenty-two students per section.(Just a few sections usually)*

*What are the current resources used for this class and how much does it generally cost?
[Achieve for the St. Martin’s Guide to Writing \(online access\)](#)--\$35.00*

What are your course objectives for this course? (copy and paste)

- Students will understand how audience and purpose shape choices of content and language.*
- Students will write in a variety of genres akin to those that will be required of them as they advance in their college education.*
- Students will gain experience in conducting field and library research.*
- Students will learn how to integrate sources in their writing and how to document them in MLA and APA styles.*
- Students will develop reflective skills and become aware of their preferred, most effective composition strategies, areas in which they need to improve, and tools for growth.*
- Students will perfect their grammatical skills through an individualized study plan.*
- Students will perfect their reading skills through an individualized study plan.*

Which chapters or sections align to each course objective.

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Section or Chapter that addresses it.</i>
<i>Students will understand how audience and purpose shape rhetorical choices.</i>	<i>Chp. 1—writing process discussion Chps. 2-10, 15—different modes/types of essays</i>
<i>Students will write in a variety of genres.</i>	<i>Chps. 2-10, 15—different modes/types of essays</i>
<i>Students will gain experience in conducting field and library research.</i>	<i>Chp. 13—the research process</i>
<i>Students will learn how to use MLA and APA.</i>	<i>Appendix—grammar and documentation guide</i>
<i>Students will develop reflective skills.</i>	<i>Chp. 20—portfolios—reflections on growth as writers</i>
<i>Students will perfect their grammatical skills.</i>	<i>Appendix—grammar and documentation</i>
<i>Students will perfect their reading skills.</i>	<i>Chp. 1—the reading process Chps. 16 & 17— textual analysis</i>

Which Course objectives are not covered in the book.

<i>Course Objective</i>
.

If you were to use this book, what would be your plan to find material to meet the uncovered objectives? (One option is to find another OER to meet it. Multiple Open Educational Resources can be used for a course) All objectives were covered.

Are there additional materials available (power points, test questions etc..) Yes. Some are provided and/or linked on the accompanying OpenStax webpages where the content of this book is found.

Is the author contact information available to contact if there are more materials? Yes. Their college affiliations are listed.

*What are the strengths of this book? (Think: writing style, citations, currency, diagrams etc..)
The textbook writers take the same approach to learning to write, the modes approach that is present in the current textbook for ENGL 1013, and they include a section on common grammar problems. Our current text does not include this grammar handbook section.*

What are the weaknesses of this book?

The table of contents and general layout of this book are a little confusing. For example, some of the modes/types of essay assignments are in separate places in the text, and the material on reading is divided and contained in two different places in the text too. Topics about one subject that are usually logically grouped together in textbooks are not necessarily done that way in this text.

To be able to use this book – what will you have to supplement? The usual materials that we have to supplement now with the book that we are currently using for ENGL 1013: student worksheets, writing assignments, and grading rubrics.

Compared to your previous purchased book – is the effort required to use this OER worth it _ why or why not? Yes. We will not have to substitute hardly any additional materials at all besides those few listed in the question above when using this new text.

If you were to use this book, would you also use a homework system? If yes, which one would you use (LibreTexts and Lumen learning are some examples) No.

Please submit the completed review to: oer@atu.edu