Bohr ENGLISH 2001 — WAC: Writing in the Major

Write a researched, documented paper about the writing done in your major. Focus on the type of writing you will do in the field and examine the job prospects to determine if this is an appropriate major for you.

For this paper, you will pull together two areas of research:

- **Secondary research** into writing in your major, from Appalachian catalogs and websites and from information from other schools that offer information about writing in your major. All material must be documented, quoted and paraphrased correctly.
- **Primary research** from your interviews with a major, a faculty member, and a professional in your field (if that’s possible). You will attach the questions you ask in an appendix and document the material, including transcripts. Ask the people you interview for an article that would serve as a good introduction to this field or that outlines a controversy in the field. You should also visit a class, lecture, film or presentation that deals with your field and present this observation as part of the paper.

To report on this information, you will write in a general report format, with these sections and headings.

- **Abstract**—a summary of your report
- **Introduction/ Background**—an explanation of what discipline you chose and why, who/what motivated you to choose this field, the kind of work required, and an introduction to how writing is used in the field.
- **Methods**—a description of the methods and sources you used, as well as an explanation of the questions you asked:
  - Whom did you talk to?
  - Why did you choose to interview him/her?
  - What is this person’s expertise or qualifications?
  - What secondary sources did you find?
  - Why were these important to you?
  - What event did you attend? (Lecture, film, presentation, class)
- **Results**—a discussion of the findings from your secondary and primary research, using the template for the scope of writing we referred to in the Hacker D sections and additional material you have added.
  - What did you learn about the discipline?
  - What did you learn about writing in this field?
  - What articles were recommended and what are they about?
  - What did you learn from your observation?
  - What else did you learn from your research?
- **Conclusion**—a discussion of what you learned in your study and an explanation of the kinds of writing skills you conclude will be necessary in your major.
  - What did you learn? How does this information affect your decision to major in this field?

To document your paper, use in-text citations for all borrowed material and include a References page, using APA documentation. (Most report formats use this type of documentation).