

“What is the First-Year Mandatory Writing Assessment?”

What the Writing Assessment is NOT:

- It is not a test.
- It is not an attempt to divide students into those who can write and those who “can’t.”
- It is not an assessment of your status as a student or of your potential for ministry.

Instead, it is an effort to help all our students develop their skills as writers. Writing is a craft, a lifelong practice that can be continually refined and improved. We want to meet you wherever you are on your journey as a writer and help you continue to grow.

How the Assessment works:

Incoming students will have a short assignment (around 3 pages) in the foundational course Church History 13 that will be due by the end of the third week of classes. Make a **duplicate** of this assignment and take it to the Center for Theological Writing (#0040Langford). **(You will still need to turn your paper in to your instructors for a grade— we will not be involved in the grading process.)** You will be assigned to a particular facilitator; find that facilitator’s hanging file-folder outside the door to Room #0040 and turn in your paper. Then sign up for an appointment with your facilitator. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the door to Room #0040. Appointments will generally be Monday mornings and Friday afternoons, these being the times when neither divinity nor graduate students are likely to have class commitments, and we have access to classrooms for meetings.

Your facilitator will read your work carefully, making suggestions for overall improvement as well as specific corrections. He or she will also tell you what you are doing well! If you are having trouble in a particular area, your facilitator may guide you to resources on the CTW Web site or in the library.

We hope that you will find the assessment process a valuable beginning to your studies here at Duke Divinity School. And the Writing Center staff hopes that you will continue to use our Web site and our tutoring services as you practice the craft of theological writing.