

University of Costa Rica  
School of Modern Languages  
LM-1235 Composition I

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## Appendix 1

### Questionnaire for Composition Instructors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Please answer the questions below.

Which writing courses have you taught in the English major at UCR?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

How many times have you taught LM-1235 Composition I?

\_\_\_\_\_.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge in teaching LM-1235 Composition I, being this the first writing course of the English major?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Once you have corrected your learners' composition, how do you give feedback?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

How many lessons do you approximately spend in presenting and reviewing Sentence Errors (fragments / comma splices / run-ons) in your course?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What specific techniques or activities do you implement in your writing course to help your students raise awareness towards Sentence Errors?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Why is it difficult for students to self-correct sentence errors in their own compositions?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Appendix 2

### Questionnaire for Composition Learners

Please answer the questions below.

1. Are you taking Composition I for the first time? If not, how many times have you taken this course?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges in taking Composition I, being this the first writing course of the English major? Rank them according to their importance.

1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
2. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. In relation to your compositions, do you understand your instructor's feedback? Is it clear?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. After your instructor gave you back your compositions, what did you do with them?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

5. What are three specific strategies or techniques that you implement in order to improve your writing? Rank them according to their importance.

1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
2. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

6. What are three of the most significant and meaningful aspects that you have learned in this course? Rank them according to their importance.

1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
2. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Which is the most difficult sentence errors for you to identify and correct: Frag., C.S. or F.S.?  
Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Finally, do you feel that, regardless of your grades, your writing has improved throughout this course? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

LM-1235 Composition I

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Appendix 3

#### Revising my composition: self-assessment checklist

Sentence errors

Does my composition contain any Comma Splices?

Does it have any Fragments?

Does my composition contain any RUN-ON Sentences or F.S.?

#### Structure

Use this chart to look for grammar mistakes. Write a check mark for each item.

	YES	NO
Does my paragraph have problems with SVA?		
Are all verb forms correctly used?		
Do all pronouns have a clear antecedent?		
Are the articles <i>the-a-an</i> properly used?		
Did I write modal forms correctly?		
Are prepositions correct?		
Are word forms correct (parts of speech)?		
Did I write dependent and independent clauses in a correct way?		

#### Vocabulary

Use this chart to look for vocabulary mistakes. Write a check mark for each item.

	YES	NO
Does my composition include varied words?		
Instead of repeating words, does my composition include synonyms?		
Does my composition contain the word "thing"? If so, I have to think of a precise word.		
Is word choice appropriate?		

### **Mechanics**

Does my paragraph begin with an appropriate MLA heading?

Did I indent the first sentence of my composition?

Does my composition have correct punctuation?

Is spelling correct?

Is the outline correctly designed? Check its format.

### **Content & organization**

Is my title interesting? Are content words capitalized?

Does my topic sentence contain a clear CONTROLLING IDEA?

Does my composition contain an appropriate number of sentences?

How many sentences does it have? Count them!

Are my ideas interesting, accurate and relevant?

Did I introduce, explain, and exemplify my causes OR effects?

Does my concluding sentence re-state my topic sentence?



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