

Gordon Rule Course Writing Requirements

To support a culture of academic excellence, to maintain consistency and to create comparable levels of rigor in all designated courses, Palm Beach State College has adopted the following guidelines and minimum criteria for Gordon Rule writing courses:

- Minimum requirements for college-level writing:
 1. The writing has a clearly defined thesis or central idea.
 2. The writing includes adequate evidence to support the thesis or idea.
 3. The writing reflects the awareness of the conventions of standard written English such as grammar, punctuation, spelling and word usage.
 4. The writing uses clear and logical organization.
 5. The writing demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply discipline content at the course-specific level.

- All writing assignments must be the students' original, independently produced work. Writing assignments used to fulfill the Gordon Rule requirement are those that include evidence of analysis, comparison, interpretation, or other critical thinking applications. Assignments with such evidence are acceptable.

Assignments that typically include the evidence stated above:

- In-class and out of class writing assignments (essays/essay/type tests)
- Critical analyses of course readings, presentations, or discussions
- Research papers
- Creative writings appropriate to the course
- Reports
- Academic journals
- Case Studies
- Portfolios
- Oral history assignments
- Position papers
- Speech outlines and formal accompanying scripts for oral presentations