

Observe & Analyze 1

Jennifer Szlag, Language & Communications Instructor [00:00:00] I've just handed back the paper that you guys submitted last class, and I'd like to take a moment to review the grade and the feedback I've given you. One of the reasons I like to make sure that you have something graded after only a couple of weeks is so you get an idea of how you're doing, things like, are your study habits working, are you getting enough out of the class, and are you taking good notes? It's basically a checkpoint before we get too far into the semester. Are there any general questions about the assignment or the grading? Yeah.

Student [00:00:35] Can we use your feedback to make changes and hand it back in?

Jennifer Szlag [00:00:38] That's a good question. The grading policy is spelled out in the syllabus and I don't accept revised papers. Instead, I want you to use the feedback to improve your next paper.

Jennifer Szlag [00:00:48] Okay.

Student [00:00:51] Is there anything we can do to improve this grade? I know this is a really big percent of our overall grade and I know you don't drop any grades.

Jennifer Szlag [00:00:59] If you mean along the lines of extra credit, no, I don't offer extra credit, but look at the feedback, like I said, and hopefully it'll help you improve the next time. This paper is worth just as much as the other two, so you can always do better next time. Also, I want to remind you what a great resource that we have on campus in the writing center. Basically, it's like tutoring for your writing. I strongly encourage you to go there if you've earned a grade that you're not so happy with. They can teach you how to improve for your next paper. A lot of you won't need this assistance, but some of you, I strongly encourage it.

Student [00:01:31] Can I ask, like, what do they do there? Do we just walk in or . . .

Jennifer Szlag [00:01:36] You won't really need an appointment. I don't quite know all the specifics, but if you go and you just bring your paper, it's basically like tutoring. It's a great resource. So you should try it out. Any other questions? Okay, let's move on. So for this upcoming assignment, if you have your syllabus, you can follow along there. The next assignment requires you to take two of the works that we've studied in this unit and compare how they address women in literature or deal with feminism. This is just a short essay. It won't be as long as the last paper you just did. And since you're free to choose from anything you've done, this is something I'm hoping that you'll enjoy. Any questions? John.

John, Student [00:02:20] When you say that we can choose any of the works we've read this unit, does that include the short excerpts and poems and short stories we've read? Can it be anything?

Jennifer Szlag [00:02:30] Yeah, what you choose is up to you. I would stick towards the short stories and excerpts from the book. Just make sure both pieces have enough content to be able to do the comparison. Providing sufficient detail is part of the grading, so if you pick something on the shorter side, you may struggle. Yeah.

Student [00:02:48] Do you have any examples of essays from other semesters that got a good grade that maybe we can look at?

Jennifer Szlag [00:02:54] I don't have any examples, but look at your last paper and it'll give you an idea of the components I'm using for your grading, things like your organization and your clarity. I'll also be looking at how well you compare the two writings you select and the evidence that you give, things like that. Any other questions, guys?