



# The Write Way

*"Master the Word and You Shall Master Your World"*

A Northwest Vista College Publication from the Centers for Academic Reading and English Support (CARES) in Juniper Hall

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Vol. II Issue IV

## Sprinting Towards the End of Spring Semester '13

Don't look now, but the end of Spring Semester 2013 here at Northwest Vista College is fast approaching! It won't be long before students begin working on final assignments along with individual and group projects.

Unfortunately, for some students it will also mean a time of academic stress, but this can be avoided if certain measures are taken now. Allow plenty of time from your hectic school, work, and family schedule to begin writing those final English essay and lab assignments, and working on semester ending projects.

For English Composition students, now is the time to start brainstorming and drafting final essay assignments. If you're having a hard time in this area, come by the CARES Writing Center in JH216, and let our tutors help you get started.

For students enrolled in Developmental English and Reading courses who need to complete re-

assignments and hours, let our CARES tutors in JH229 for English or in JH110 for Reading courses help you get this done correctly and on time.

Meanwhile, although studying for finals and completing essay and lab assignments as well as projects can be challenging, especially for new or non traditional students, it can be done successfully if you budget your time.

Keep in mind that English may not be your only class, so balance your time among other courses, especially those that are required for your core curriculum major. If you have any questions about your grades at this point in the semester, contact your instructors to see if any missed assignments can be made up or if there are any errors in your recorded grades.

Good luck on your final exams, labs, and projects, but please stop by our CARES labs for help!



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### The CARES Labs

#### The College English Center

JH216 Mon -Thurs: 8AM-9PM

Fri-Sat: 9AM -2PM

#### Developmental English Lab

JH229 Mon -Thurs: 9AM-9PM

Fri - Sat: 9AM -2PM

#### Developmental Reading Lab

JH110 Mon -Thurs: 9AM-5PM

#### Advocacy Center

JH308 Mon - Thurs 8AM - 7PM

Friday 9AM-12PM

Visit us at:

<http://www.alamo.edu/nvc/tutoring/cares/>



### CARES Student of the Month

## Education is Johnson's Life Destiny

With Sonie Johnson, when it comes to education, it is all about destiny and the confidence it gives her while setting out to accomplish academic goals that have been instilled upon her by her parents.

"Education is extremely important to me because my parents stress the importance of it on a daily basis. They did not have the opportunity to pursue their education. I am the first of their eight children to be a college student," Johnson explains.

Because she has earned a 4.0 average in all of her English courses here at Northwest Vista Col-



Sonie Johnson

lege and continues to do so, Johnson has been selected the Center for Academic Reading and English Support's (CARES) Student of the Month for April.

A native of Jamaica, Johnson has lived in America for 20 years, and although she has not declared a major, she is convinced her future begins with a firm educational background.

"Each day I grow more confident I should major in English because this will be beneficial to my career goals. My dreams are to be a published author, teacher, and a social worker. After I complete my degrees, I would like to teach members of society who have dropped out of high school," she ex-

(See Johnson, Pg. 2)



# April Is Time for Registration: No Fooling!

As if students didn't have enough to worry about with final exams and projects due soon, it will also be time to register for: Maymester, Summer I, Summer 8 Week, and Summer II.

However, if you don't give this matter your serious attention, you may find yourself looking for something else to do this summer other than academics. Registration is based on the number of college hours you have earned and here's the schedule:

46+ Hrs.	April 8 & 9
31+ Hrs.	April 10
16+ Hrs.	April 11
1+ Hrs.	April 12
Open (for all students)	April 15

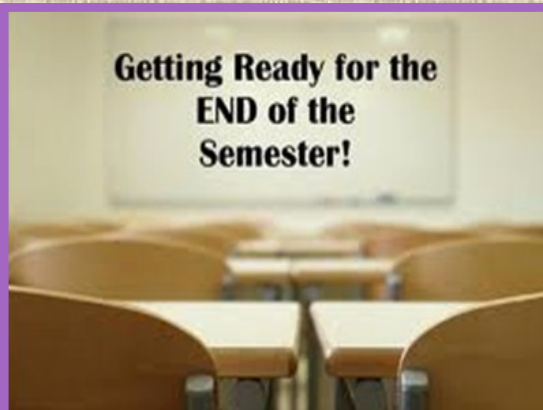
Office hours for Northwest Vista College's registrar's office in the Cypress College Center are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Hours on Thursday are from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Remember that you can also register

for classes through the Web, and if you have any questions, please visit NVC's website and click on the Current Student tab.

So there you have it. Study your degree plan carefully, and determine what courses you'll need to register for this summer. Take special note of any courses that require prerequisites so that you'll be able register for those courses that follow next. For example: you have to take and pass English 1301 before you can take English 1302.

Consult NVC's course catalogue for the day and hours when your courses will be available, and map out your studies for the coming May and summer semesters.



## Geek Week 2013

April 8-12 @ Lago Vista in CCC & NVC Library



- Costume Contest
- Sci-Fi Poetry Contest
- Arcade Game Discussion
- Video & Board Games
- Manga & Comic Book Library
- Vendors
- And much more!



## Academic Advising Set For Early April

Faculty academic advising for all Northwest Vista College students has been slated for April 3 & 4 on what had been designated as **Advising Days** between the hours of 8:30 am until 5:00 pm.

If you have not declared a major or if you are seeking information about a specific area of study that interests you, this will be the time to get all of your questions answered by our faculty.

Also, if you have not had a degree plan drawn up for your declared major, faculty advisors will be on hand to help. If you do have a degree plan, but are unsure as to what courses are needed to complete it in order to

graduate, this will be the opportunity for you to seek the correct information.

Meanwhile, if you are interested in declaring for an English major or if you need to know what English course you need to take next in order to complete your degree plan, those questions can be answered by our English and Reading faculty in Juniper Hall. Advising for English and Reading will be held on the second floor in the hallway by the big window facing the bridge.

For all other majors, please visit our NVC website and click on the **Be Advised** window for times and locations.

## Johnson, (continued from Page 1) —

plained.

Being a foreign-born student, Johnson has a different perspective on the academic needs in this country, especially those that have dropped out of high school.

"Many of these citizens are unskilled and living unproductive lives. I believe if nothing is done to help these citizens, America will have greater problems economically as well as socially, and on a continuous basis".

Meanwhile, Johnson's academic philosophy mirrors her dedication to higher education. "In my Student Development class, we are told at least four hours of work outside of class for each course is beneficial in order to succeed. This should be emphasized to every college student. I practice this every day, and this diligence is reflected in my performance".

She adds that perseverance is essential to learning. "Preparation is a component to success and failure is a result of excuses". Congratulations to Sonie Johnson on her selection as Student of the Month!



# The Descriptive, Definition, and Process Analysis Essay

*(Editor's Note: This the last of a two-part series on English Composition Writing Assignments)*

Of the various essays that English composition students may be asked to write in either their English 1301 or 1302 courses, the descriptive essay is one where you can reach into your grammar toolbox and use a variety of adjectives to describe an object, person, place, event, and feeling.

In this type of writing assignments, students are encouraged to implement the adage that all English instructors and tutors advise: Show, Don't Tell! Help your reader see, hear, feel, smell and taste what it is you are describing in your descriptive essay.

Your textbook *The Prose Reader* (for ENG 1301) and *Everything is an Argument* (for ENG 1302) notes that a descriptive essay suspends in time the object you are describing. A true descriptive essay will have no action or time. What it must have is:

- A dominant thesis,
- In-depth details that support your thesis,
- Engagement of all five senses, and
- Selection of a point of view.

The popular academic website The Owl, explains that a descriptive essay encourages the student's ability to create a written account of a particular experience. It also notes that this writing genre allows for a lot of artistic freedom.

The Owl encourages the student to follow these guidelines:

- Take time to brainstorm,
- Write down a few words for what you have selected to describe,
- Compile a descriptive lists for each one,
- Use clear and concise language, and
- Choose vivid language.

If your instructor has assigned for you to write an essay about an event and you have selected the time you witnessed a car accident. You don't want to tell the reader that while walking to the corner store one day, you saw a car run a red light, and it hit another car.

Present the reader with a clear picture of this situation such as the time of day, weather conditions, the vehicles involved, and what led to the accident as you saw it. Show the reader what the results of the accident were, describe the injuries if there were any, inform the reader what the accident sounded like, describe the smell of burning tire rubber, of the water draining out of the radiator, or the gas released from the airbags.

The Owl also suggests that if you can describe emotions or feelings related to your topic, you will connect with the reader on a deeper level. Tap into this emotional reservoir in order to achieve your full descriptive potential. One of your tasks in writing a descriptive essay should be to bring about a strong sense of familiarity and appreciation in the reader.

Meanwhile, for writing definition essays, you have to keep in mind that any definition you choose to write about should be centered on a concise and logical pattern. This means that you should include as much information as you can within a minimum amount of space. So as not to confuse your reader, be clear in defining what it is you are going to discuss.

In the *The Prose Reader*, it explains that the definition essay is the process of explaining a word, object, or idea in such a way that the reader knows exactly what it is you are defining. If you provide your reader with a detailed definition of what you are writing about, they will completely understand your essay and the point being made.

According to The Owl, a formal definition consists of the term (word or phrase) to be defined, the class of object or concept to which the term belongs, and the differentiating characteristics that distinguish it from all others of its class. Also keep in mind these following points when writing a definition

- Compose a thesis statement,
- Approach the definition creatively,
- Define the word or concept while using a valid research source, and
- Use rhetorical strategies to support your definition.

The Owl also reminds students to use definitions when your writing contains a term that may be key to audience understanding and the term could likely be unfamiliar to them.

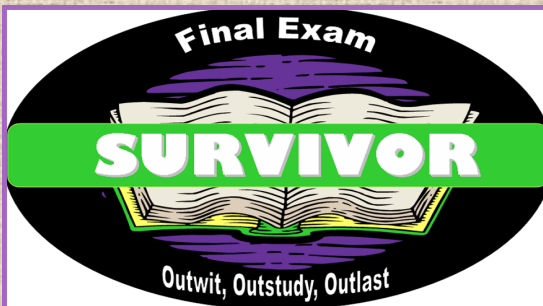
Explaining a word origin and history (etymology of a common word) might prove interesting or will help expand upon a point. Do not define a word by repeating over and over again, but do define it in simple and familiar terms. Your definition of an unfamiliar word should not lead your audience towards looking up more words in order to understand your definition.

The final essay in this series is the process analysis, which, according to *The Prose Reader*, is a procedure that follows a series of steps or stages. It involves taking a subject apart and explaining its components in order to better understand the whole picture. It must explain an action, a mechanism, or event from beginning to end. The process analysis essay should concentrate on either a mental or physical operation such as: How to solve an algebra problem, or How to log on to the ACES website.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when writing a process analysis essay:

- Provide an overview of the process,
- Draft a purpose statement or thesis,
- Make your essay direct or informative,
- Organize the essay in chronological, simultaneously, or cyclically order, and
- End with a description of the process as a whole.

Keep in mind when writing a process analysis essay, you must describe for your reader each step involved in the process you have selected to write about. In other words, write a step-by-step process such as one you find when reading instructions for the assembly of something like a desk or bicycle. Explain the process thoroughly, and leave no doubt as to each process as well as the end result.





# Chocolate is Not All That Bad When It Comes to a Healthy Heart

We all know how yummy chocolate can be. Getting through Easter without a Cadbury Egg can be near impossible. Too much of a good thing can actually be bad for you, but there is good news about chocolate. A little research on [www.fitday.com](http://www.fitday.com) shows how chocolate can have many health benefits; dark chocolate that is.

Dark chocolate is good for your heart, brain, helps control blood sugar, is full of antioxidants, and is high in vitamins and minerals. Dark chocolate may be bitter in taste, but has

some sweet benefits!

Studies show that dark chocolate improves blood flow and may help prevent the formation of blood clots. This increase in blood flow to the brain as well as the heart can help improve cognitive function and also helps reduce your risk of stroke. With this in mind, before your next test, eat some dark chocolate to get the blood flowing and wake up your brain to work at a higher level.

Being a college student, we all need a little stimulant every now and then, so instead of

grabbing that expensive cup of Starbucks' coffee, grab a few pieces of dark chocolate.

One last thing; dark chocolate is loaded with antioxidants. They help free your body of free radicals, which cause oxidative damage to cells. Free radicals are implicated in the aging process and may be a cause of cancer, so eating antioxidant rich foods like dark chocolate can protect you from many types of cancer and slow the signs of aging. Who doesn't want to hold tight to being youthful?

So, go and grab yourself some dark chocolate, guilt free, and enjoy a yummy treat while also enjoying all of the healthy benefits dark chocolate has to offer.

# It's Fiesta Time in San Antonio!



If it's springtime in San Antonio, it's time for Fiesta and that means a variety of colorful and cultural events spanning ten days of celebration. This year, Fiesta is scheduled for April 18-27th and promises to be a great way to spend time with friends and family in the Alamo City.



One of the most prominent events during Fiesta days is the downtown Battle of the Flowers Parade, which this year will be held on Friday, April 26, beginning at 11:30 a.m. and ending at around 4 p.m. All Alamo District Colleges and offices are closed on this day so that all may attend and enjoy the parade.

According to the Fiesta San Antonio website ([http://www.fiesta-sa.org/events\\_detail.aspx?id=157](http://www.fiesta-sa.org/events_detail.aspx?id=157)), it notes that plans for the parade actually date back to 1891, and was designed to commemorate the Battle of the Alamo and San Jacinto. It began with a group of dedicated ladies founded the Battle of Flowers Association, a nonprofit and civic organization chartered in 1914 to celebrate Texas history.

Today, the Battle of Flowers Parade holds the distinction of being the first celebration held in Alamo Plaza and is considered the founding event of Fiesta San Antonio. Each year, eight San Antonio public schools are invited on a rotating schedule to ride in a float provided by the Battle of Flowers Parade. Through their public school floats, they have honored our fallen heroes and had an opportunity to involve students in our community's celebrations and history. The Battle of Flowers Parade 2013 celebrates world festivals and anniversaries.

## Grammar LOL

Is Austin the capital or capitol of Texas? Do you use a lawn mower or a lawnmower? Do you have vocal cords or chords? These are just some questions writers must ask themselves in order to avoid common mistakes in writing. By the way, Austin is the capitol of Texas, we use a lawn mower to cut our grass, and humans have vocal cords.

Here are more common writing mistakes as listed by Random House:

- The singular of biceps is biceps, and the singular of triceps is triceps. There is no such thing as a bicep or tricep.
- A flier is someone who flies a plane while a flyer is an advertisement
- It is free rein and not free reign.
- Some yards have flower beds, but not flowerbeds.
- Tortuous is twisty, circuitous, or tricky while torturous is painful or painfully slow.

**The C/ARES Newsletter Staff for April 2013 was comprised of English Composition, Developmental Reading, and Writing instructors and tutors.**

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