Outcomes: Written Communication and Critical Thinking: First-Year Seminar

Context of and Purpose for Writing
    Students should:
- Focus on a purpose
- Accurately read and respond to writing prompts
- Respond to the needs of different audiences
- Understand how genres shape reading and writing
- Write in several genres
- Respond appropriately to different kinds of rhetorical situations
- Use conventions of format and structure appropriate to the rhetorical situation
- Adopt appropriate voice, tone, and level of formality
- Be aware that it usually takes multiple drafts to create and complete a successful text
- Implement appropriate strategies for analyzing/comparing and contrasting an academic topic
- Implement appropriate strategies for persuading general readers of a defensible position

Content Development
    Students should:
- Use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating
- Develop flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing, and proof-reading
- Understand writing as an open process that permits writers to use later invention and re-thinking to revise their work
- Understand the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes
- Learn to critique effectively and productively their own and others' works
- Learn to balance the advantages of relying on others with the responsibility of doing their part
- Use a variety of technologies to address a range of audiences
- Understand basic principles of rhetoric

Genre and Disciplinary Conventions
    Students should:
- Learn common formats for different kinds of texts
- Develop knowledge of genre conventions ranging from structure and paragraphing to tone and mechanics

Sources and Evidence
    Students should:
- Attempt to use credible and relevant sources to support ideas
- Begin to practice appropriate means of documenting their work

Student's position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis)
    Students should:
- Center academic essays around a debatable and clearly-defined position
- Critically examine ideas and information
- Develop and organize ideas and information
- Integrate their own ideas with those of others

Control of Syntax and Mechanics
    Students should:
- Control such surface features as syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.