

AUGUST/ SEPT 2023

# FYW NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME BACK!

Hello and welcome to Fall 2023! It rolled back around a little too quickly (as usual) but here we are. We've been very busy in FYW so we wanted to send out this newsletter of all our updates. Stay tuned for more info on workshops, office hours and other First Year Writing news!

Co-Directors of First Year Writing, Rebecca Mazumdar and Carrie Hall will be using a joint email ([FirstYearWriting@CityTech.Cuny.Edu](mailto:FirstYearWriting@CityTech.Cuny.Edu)) for all FYW business from now on. We'll also be using the same zoom link (see your email) for all FYW meetings this semester. We will be holding a Q&A session at this address at 10 AM on Aug 24 for new faculty and Sept 1 for all faculty, also at 10 AM.

## FACULTY HANDBOOK

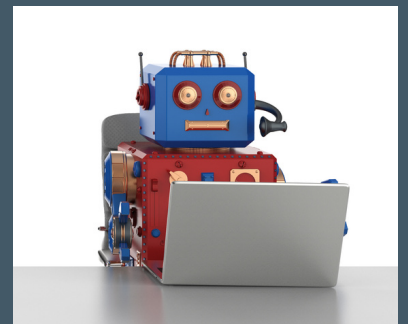
This summer, we undertook the beginnings of an English Dept Faculty Handbook on Open Lab. Please note that this project has just begun and we were mostly focused on developing resources for new faculty to expedite the onboarding process. Please let us know if there's something you'd like to fix, add or change!

## CHAT GPT RESOURCES

We know a lot of folks are concerned about Chat GPT in the classroom. So are we! Take a look at these resources to talk to students about the importance of their OWN voice and the uses/dangers of Chat GPT.

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# THE "PROCRASTINATION STATION"

(and the study that led us to it)

Last year, over 700 First Year Writing students completed a writing exercise (known as a "Utility Value Intervention") aimed at both increasing retention and collecting information about impediments to graduation. We found that over half of City Tech Students struggle with procrastination and/or time management. Please see your email or contact FYW directors for a copy of this study. We're happy to share it with you, but please don't distribute it out of this department.

Research tells us that procrastination is almost always an issue of affect, or negative feelings toward school or education, not laziness. With this in mind, we developed the "Procrastination Station" Website, which has exercises for students to deal with their time management issues. It also has curricular suggestions and lesson plans for professors as well as a number of readings, videos and podcasts on the topic (which incidentally, mimic a reflective annotated bibliography.) It also has links to a Procrastination Station Instagram and Twitter! We have plans to build on this project in the future. Please check it out!



## UTILITY VALUE INTERVENTIONS (UVI'S)

We strongly suggest you keep using UVI's. Remember, these are 10-15 minute in-class writing exercises. They're simple to do, but they work much better if you follow certain guidelines. There's even one you can use as a beginning -of-semester diagnostic. [Read more about them HERE](#)

## Important Dates:

- Classes Begin Aug 25 (!!!)
- College closed (no classes) Sept 4
- First Faculty Meeting Sept 7 (Required for FT Faculty. PT Faculty invited, but not obligated to attend.)
- First FYW Meeting Sept 14 1pm
- [VOE Rosters Due Sept 14](#)

## Co-Req Model Course Updates

This summer, Dan Ryan and Mark Noonan (new Co-Req Co-ordinators) did a huge amount of work revamping the IIOICO model courses. They added more scaffolding, grammar exercises, more guidance for students, lessons on Chat GPT and multiple readings about media literacy. They will be holding regular meetings about this new curriculum for those teaching the CO. Co-req instructors may use the old course, but Mark and Dan strongly encourage you to use [the new curriculum, which can be found HERE](#). Please talk to Dan or Mark if you have any questions.



## Mainstream Model Course Updates

We also revised the IIOI Mainstream Model Course. Again, faculty may use the old version if they choose, but we like the new one even more! We have units on Chat GPT and procrastination/time management. We've integrated a short exercise using a Critical Thinking Framework used in math, to help students transfer skills across courses, and we've scheduled in time for in-class conferencing. As always, you can use the lessons you like and replace the ones you don't! [Look on the Model Course Hub](#) for the new curriculum.

We will have **SOME** paper packets of the readings and assignments used in Unit One available in Namm 512. These are mostly for new faculty, who are often unable to access the internet. If you are not new and foresee needing physical copies, please contact FYW directors ASAP.

## FYW UNIT GUIDELINES

In Spring of 2023, the First Year Writing Committee decided to implement Unit Guidelines for ENGI101 and I121 courses. [Find more info on the Unit Guidelines HERE](#).



A ZILLION thanks to everyone who worked on the summer projects: Profs Jackie Blain, Shauna Chung, Jessica Decoux, Carrie Hall, Rebecca Mazumdar, Mark Noonan and Dan Ryan, as well as the people and entities who supported these projects. Particular thanks go to CUNY's Developmental Education Reform Grant, Provost Pam Brown, Dean Justin Vazquez-Poritz, English Dept. Chair Suzanne Miller and Professor Rob Ostrom. Mad thanks also to the over 700 students who did the writing exercise, the 54 professors who administered it and the 12 professors who helped us assess it.