

## **Resources for Writing at SFU**

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Updated: Oct. 15, 2007

If you are struggling with writing as indicated by your prof, you should consider taking supplementary steps to get up to speed. Keep in mind that writing skills are the most important asset of the liberal arts major and that unless you address the problem, your marks will continue to suffer, perhaps not reflecting your mastery of the subject matter.

1. English Bridge Program- excellent program for those for whom English is a second language, see [www.sfu.ca/ebp](http://www.sfu.ca/ebp)

Many students come from abroad and think they know written English bec. they have passed a TOEFEL exam. What they miss is the fact that it is not only language, but writing approach and style that must be learned to succeed at courses.

2. SFU Learning Commons- This is the main on campus resource for improving basic skills and is located in the library. They offer occasional short courses as well as consultation. See <http://learningcommons.sfu.ca/>

3. Writing-intensive courses- By SFU mandate, every Dept. must now offer courses with intensive writing feedback. However, if you are struggling, you probably will be better off taking an English composition course or taking a 100-level writing-intensive course (POL 101W). As you get to the higher level writing-intensive courses, the writing instruction becomes accordingly more sophisticated and specialized.

4. Look at the other writing tips under the Teaching heading on my website. Use peer review. The main thing is to try to learn from your mistakes; this is something most students do not do as they do

not carefully read and incorporate the comments from papers and discuss them with instructors.