

## Learning Online

Learning online is not as easy as you would think! Remember, we do not meet at a specific time, in a specific location, as one whole class! Instead, we take all of our learning online and post to discussion forums, submit essays for evaluation and workshop, complete online grammar exercises, and, read assignments in our textbooks as well as online lecture documents.

Here are my top 5 tips for the online learner (these are not in any order):

- Create a consistent log-in schedule for yourself!
  - Because online courses do not meet 'live', there's a tendency for students to get behind! If you don't log-in to this course, for even one week, you will fall far behind! Make time for your online work as you would in attending a normal, in-class, course!
- If you do not understand something, contact the instructor!
  - Don't be shy about asking questions online! Not only do you have our 'Ask a Question' Bulletin Board as a means of asking questions (publically), but you also have our course email tool (a one-one means of communication just for us)! Don't stew over something so long that you begin to hate learning online! Ask those questions! State your confusion! I'm here to help you!
- Do not work in frustration!
  - The worse thing for learning is 'forcing it'! If you are having technical problems with the course, do not spend 2-3 hours trying to make something work!! You'll only be conditioning yourself to hate computers, and, learning online! Instead, try your best to figure out your problem and if you cannot, contact me with your problem and leave it be for a day! There's nothing like a good night's sleep (I know a lot of us are so busy that we rarely have these!) to settle your mind and body! Remember, I will work with you if you keep me informed! I fully understand the issues surrounding computer work (power outages, fried motherboards, viruses, etc.) ... just keep me posted and I'll work with you on due dates!
- Print out our course outline!
  - Our course outline is our guide to the course! The entire semester's work is laid out in that document, and I will follow it closely! You can easily gauge how much work is ahead of you by keeping this schedule close by your side! Use it!
- Pace yourself!
  - With the entire course staring at you in the face, you can feel overwhelmed ... especially since this course is a 3-credit course in the

field of writing! Pace yourself! I will help you do this by providing you with a detailed course schedule that you can follow, in addition to controlling at what time our future modules open (for instance, as you are reading this, you can only access the documents in our week one module)! Note: once a module has been opened for you, it will NEVER close! I always leave our past modules opened so that you can review my teachings and your past submissions!