The Saint Louis University Writing Examination for Graduate Students (Grad SLUWE)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
SPRING 2017
What is the Grad SLUWE?

• The grad SLUWE tests your readiness for graduate classes at Saint Louis University

• Individual graduate programs determine who must take the grad SLUWE
SLUWE Scores

• Scores range from 0 to 4+.

4+ is passing

• If you don’t earn a 4+, the ESL Program recommends that students who score:
  ▫ 4 enroll in EAP 4200.
  ▫ 4- enroll in EAP 4100
  ▫ 3+ or lower enroll in a Pathways or Academic English course.

• Your graduate program ultimately decides.
What skills are needed to be an effective academic writer?

- Developed writing skills
  - Organizing your response
  - Arguing for a position
  - Supporting that position
  - Clear and accurate English usage

- Critical reading skills
  - Asking questions
  - Making inferences
What skills are needed to be an effective academic writer?

• Paraphrasing and summarizing skills
  ▫ Using your own words to explain another’s view
  ▫ Condensing a paragraph or article into one or two sentences

• Academic citation skills
  ▫ Giving credit for another’s ideas with in-text citations
  ▫ Creating a bibliography (Works Cited or References list)
SLUWE Skills

- The SLUWE tests these skills in a three-part exam.
  - **Part One: Comprehension**
  - **Part Two: Documentation**
  - **Part Three: Essay**
Part One: Comprehension
Skills and Strategies
Comprehension

• Write complete sentences
  ▫ Show your grammar abilities
  ▫ Use logical connectors

• Paraphrase and summarize
  ▫ Use key words, but change ordinary words and sentence structures
  ▫ Do not copy or use quotations from the articles
Comprehension

• Make inferences
  ▫ Understand what is implied by the writers
  ▫ “Read between the lines”

• Synthesize
  ▫ Identify the common bond between the two articles
  ▫ Present it in your own words
Part Two: Documentation
Skills and Strategies
Documentation

• Explain the method of documenting sources
  ▫ Discuss in-text citations and bibliography
  ▫ Create an example bibliography
• Explain the rationale of documenting sources
  ▫ Show you understand the reason for citations
• Demonstrate your ability to use handbooks
  ▫ Use the style guide to create a bibliography
  ▫ Follow the models closely
Part Three: Essay
Skills and Strategies
Writing

- Demonstrate your ability to write a multi-paragraph essay
- Organize your answer thoughtfully
- State your view of the issue at the beginning
- Support your view with evidence from the article or your own experience
- Conclude briefly
Reading

• Demonstrate your understanding of the articles
• Pay attention to the differences between main ideas, details, and examples
• Show your understanding with an accurate summary of the article
• Refer back to the article in specific ways
Grammar

• Demonstrate your ability to use grammar in a meaningful way
• Focus on clarity and explaining what you mean
• Know your common grammar errors
• Save time at the end of your test to edit
Research

• Use the provided style guide to include quotations with correct parenthetical (in-text) citations

• Quotations should support your argument (thesis)
Questions?

- Email Mr. Matt Ryan, English Language Center Coordinator, at mryan19@slu.edu