

High School

vs.

College/Academic Discourse

A place to learn/memorize basic, established knowledge.

Writing is thinking. A place where new knowledge is discovered or created through research and dialogue.

Writing is a place where the writer repeats the established knowledge and uses research material as ultimate authority. Disagreeing with sources is discouraged.

Writing is a place to dialogue with sources and add the writer's unique interpretation.

Writing is about correctness and rule-following.

Writing is about clarity of concepts and personal style.

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Writing is completed in distinct forms or genres (ie: persuasive essay, informative essay, 5 paragraph essay, etc.).

Writing is often a hybrid of genres/forms we've learned in high school. It is not formulaic, but responds to the needs of its audience.

Writer stifles his/her own voice in order to appear objective. "I" usually discouraged.

The writer allows his/her own voice to come through to emphasize ownership of the unique ideas s/he includes in the writing. "I" is present in most writing academics produce.

Writers write to teachers as only reader.

Writer seeks out an appropriate audience for his/her work or writes to fellow scholars in his/her field.

Writer doesn't often think beyond the specific prompt or topic at hand; usually teachers "give" topics, and grades are the reasons for writing.

Writer must articulate how his topic fits into a large context and demonstrate a need or purpose for writing. Writer comes up with his own reasons for writing.