

Report from the Field

Why Writing Matters: Helping Students Rethink the Value of English and Writing Studies

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While employers voice dissatisfaction with college graduates' writing, current statistics confirm a decline in the number of students pursuing English degrees. A familiar explanation given for this discrepancy is that students fail to see a connection between English and writing studies and their career goals. This report reflects on an English department project that addresses this discrepancy by using tenets from critical thinking and critical pedagogy to prompt students to rethink skills, abilities, and academic focuses in preparation for their professional pursuits.