

# WAC in FYW: Building Bridges and Teachers as Architects



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# I. College from the students' eyes

- “freshmen writing courses usually serve the purposes of *general education*: to help you write, read, and think more effectively in all of your other courses”

-Keith Hjortshoj

# I. College from the students' eyes

- “Though this *pedagogy of the generic* may be a useful and effective approach for some students, assignments, and contexts (particularly first-year composition courses)...”

-Michael Pemberton

## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### A. FYW classroom as blueprint

- FYW as a site of *cross-curricular acknowledgement*
- Encourage students to view college-level writing as a *universal discourse community*

## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### A. FYW classroom as blueprint

Transferrable skills within the FYW curriculum:

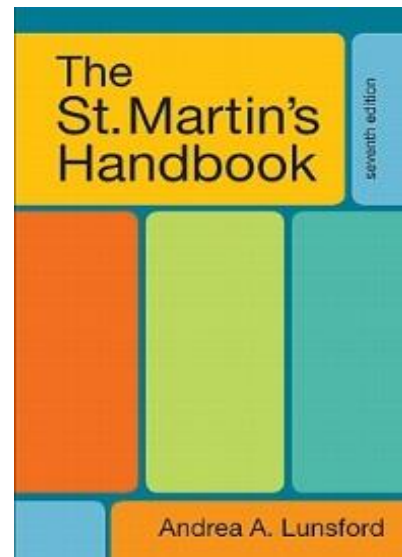
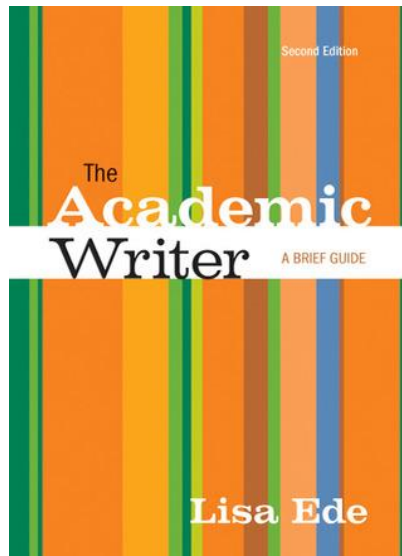
1. Invention and idea development
2. Thesis statement/central argument
3. Organization
4. Writing as a process
5. Academic research
6. Citation

## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### B. FYW teacher as architect

- Curriculum strategies:

#### I. Select a textbook that includes WAC





## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### B. FYW teacher as architect

- Curriculum strategies:
  2. Day one of the semester:
    - \*what are the components of “good writing?”



## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### B. FYW teacher as architect

- Curriculum strategies:

#### 3. Questions for students:

\*What courses are you taking?

\*What writing assignments will you complete?

\*End of semester: what skills were most useful in other courses?



## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### B. FYW teacher as architect

- Curriculum strategies:

#### 4. Unpack the language/verbs of assignment sheets

\*analyze

\*discuss

\*summarize

\*argue

\*interpret

\*explain

\*explore

\*defend

## II. Solutions and bridge-building

### B. FYW teacher as architect

- Curriculum strategies:

#### 5. Incorporate a variety of writing assignments

\*freewriting

\*Discussion Board

\*academic research

\*summary/response

\*multimedia

\*proposals

\*presentations

\*analyses

### III. Reassurance and reinforcement

- Successful qualities:
  1. *openmindedness*
  2. *creativity*
  3. *flexibility*
  4. *explicit persuasion*