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:

1. 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*