

Approved Experiential Essay Topics

Communication Arts

Essay topics should be selected based off of personal or professional experience and the needs of the student program. Students should contact an academic advisor to determine program needs.

Possible Course Duplication - This identifies possible course duplication between the essay topic and other coursework. The essay descriptions listed below could duplicate the courses indicated and/or any other coursework required or completed. Please contact your AC or plac@phoenix.edu to verify there is no duplication with your chosen topic before writing an essay.

Possible Supporting Documentation - This section identifies possible or recommended supporting documentation for the chosen topic. This is to assist students in choosing appropriate documentation. It is not all inclusive. If you are unable to provide the possible supporting documentation identified please contact PLA customer service to discuss other options for appropriate documentation.

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Public Speaking	3 UD	Communication Arts
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Lower Division Topics		
Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
American Sign Language	3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description		
Discuss the fundamentals of American Sign Language including vocabulary, conversation, and grammar. Demonstrate an understanding of culture and linguistics as it relates to American Sign Language. The following subtopics are to be addressed:		
Subtopic 1:	Compare and contrast American Sign Language and English.	
Subtopic 2:	Discuss grammatical elements unique to American Sign Language.	
Subtopic 3:	Discuss unique elements of conversation and linguistics in American Sign Language.	
Subtopic 4:	Discuss the use of vocabulary, syntax, finger spelling, and grammatical non-manual signs in American Sign Language.	
Subtopic 5:	Examine the culture of the Deaf Community.	
Subtopic 6:	Examine the role American Sign Language plays within the culture of the Deaf Community.	
Possible Course Duplication		
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.		
Possible Supporting Documentation		
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content		

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Contemporary Communication	3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description		
Discuss the necessary skills for effective written and oral communication in the work place and modern society. Emphasis will be on the fundamentals of interpersonal, written, and oral communication. The following subtopics are to be addressed:		
Subtopic 1:	Explain the importance of successful communication.	
Subtopic 2:	Describe the skills necessary for effective communication.	
Subtopic 3:	Discuss interpersonal communication and how it differs in social and business situations.	
Subtopic 4:	Discuss the impact of technology on interpersonal communication in social and business situations.	
Subtopic 5:	Discuss the fundamentals of effective written communication in social and business situations.	
Subtopic 6:	Examine effective oral communication in social and business situations.	
Possible Course Duplication		
This course duplicates ENG/135. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.		
Possible Supporting Documentation		
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content		

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Copy Editing		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Describe the process of editing copy for professional or journalistic situations. Explain the importance of proper grammar, usage, clarity, and consistency. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Discuss the importance of editing and the role of the editor.		
Subtopic 2:	Describe the process of reviewing copy for errors.		
Subtopic 3:	Discuss the importance of correct English usage.		
Subtopic 4:	Explain how to review copy to improve clarity.		
Subtopic 5:	Explain the process of helping to remedy inconsistencies and redundancies.		
Subtopic 6:	Describe the process of editing copy to meet accepted standards.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, certificate of completion from course of similar content, or proof of editing published work as accessed on a website with URL			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Interviewing		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Discuss the techniques and skills needed to be an effective interviewer. Emphasis should be placed on the interpersonal communication skills necessary to conduct effective interviews. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Discuss the process of preparing for an effective interview including preparing questions, the scheduling process, and how to evaluate applicants.		
Subtopic 2:	Describe the steps needed to follow compliance and ethical consideration during the interview process.		
Subtopic 3:	Discuss communication skills and strategies that can help encourage the interviewee to talk.		
Subtopic 4:	Identify how verbal and nonverbal communication can impact the interviewee and communication techniques that can be used to make the interviewee feel more comfortable.		
Subtopic 5:	Examine the importance of rapport in the interview process and techniques to increase rapport.		
Subtopic 6:	Examine the role of listening skills in the interview process and techniques to improve listening skills.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Introduction to Communication		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Define the purpose of communication within the context of verbal, non-verbal, and interpersonal communication. Discuss the role of communication on self-concept and society. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Define verbal communication.		
Subtopic 2:	Define non-verbal communication.		
Subtopic 3:	Define interpersonal communication.		
Subtopic 4:	Identify communication methods used and what role these methods play in communication. A minimum of three methods should be discussed.		
Subtopic 5:	Discuss the role of communication on self-concept.		
Subtopic 6:	Discuss the role of communication on society. Focus should be on forms of mass communication.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COM/100 and COMM/200. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Introduction to Oral Communication		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Discuss the basic concepts of oral communication including public speaking. Describe effective elements of oral communication including verbal and nonverbal communication, language, persuasion, and visual elements as appropriate. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Explain the basic elements of the oral communication process.		
Subtopic 2:	Explain the importance of audience in public speaking situations.		
Subtopic 3:	Describe the role of verbal and nonverbal communication on oral communication.		
Subtopic 4:	Discuss the importance of language and the impact of language on effective oral communication.		
Subtopic 5:	Discuss the use of persuasion in oral communication, particularly in public speaking.		
Subtopic 6:	Discuss how visual elements and media can increase effectiveness of oral communication, particularly public speaking.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COMM 110 and the Public Speaking essay. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, proof of membership to speech giving organizations such as Toastmaster's, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Poetry		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Discuss poetry as a form of creative writing. Emphasis will be placed the forms and distinctive characteristics of poetry as well as the different genres. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Identify the different genres of poetry. (At least two distinct genres must be discussed.)		
Subtopic 2:	Compare and contrast two genres of poetry discussing the form and distinctive characteristics of each genre.		
Subtopic 3:	Discuss the creative writing process as it relates to writing poetry.		
Subtopic 4:	Identify the steps taken to begin writing poetry including prewriting, drafting, editing, and revising.		
Subtopic 5:	Discuss the use of literary devices such as simile, metaphor, imagery, etc. in writing poetry.		
Subtopic 6:	Examine the role of poetry in world literature.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of published work as accessed through a website with URL			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Radio, Television, and Film Writing		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Examine media writing and its role in mass communication. Emphasis should be placed on the basic theories, methodologies, techniques, principles, and formats of either narrative or non-narrative media. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Discuss media writing and the impact on mass communication.		
Subtopic 2:	Describe the basic theories of writing either narrative or non-narrative media.		
Subtopic 3:	Identify the methodologies used in either narrative or non-narrative media writing.		
Subtopic 4:	Discuss techniques and principles for effective media writing.		
Subtopic 5:	Compare at least two formats used in media writing.		
Subtopic 6:	Examine the importance of effective writing for mass communication.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Technical Writing		3 LD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Discuss the fundamentals and best practices of writing in a business environment. Emphasis is on professional technical reports, manuals, handbooks and presentations. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Explain the purpose of technical writing.		
Subtopic 2:	Compare and contrast technical writing with other forms of writing.		
Subtopic 3:	Describe how data and information is organized in technical writing.		
Subtopic 4:	Discuss documentation considerations in technical writing.		
Subtopic 5:	Discuss effective document design in technical writing.		
Subtopic 6:	Discuss submission of papers for formal presentations and published papers.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates ENG/221. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Upper Division Topics			
Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Business and Professional Writing		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Analyze the role of writing within a business environment. An emphasis should be placed on the types of expository writing in a business environment and the importance of understanding editing and writing expository prose as it relates to business practices. The following subtopics should be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Summarize the types of writing encountered in a business environment.		
Subtopic 2:	Explain the difference between business and personal writing.		
Subtopic 3:	Discuss the role of organization and preparation within business and professional writing.		
Subtopic 4:	Evaluate the importance of effective editing techniques in business writing.		
Subtopic 5:	Analyze distribution methods of business and professional writing and the effectiveness of each method. At least three distribution methods should be discussed.		
Subtopic 6:	Examine how business writing differs from other expository writing.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, certificate of completion from course of similar content, or published work that can be accessed through a website with URL			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Communicating in the Virtual Workplace		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Explain the use of technology-mediated communication in the modern workplace. Assess and evaluate at least three types of media that are used such as, but not limited to, email, Instant Messenger, VOIP, Intranet, Internet, etc. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Explain the role of communication in the virtual workplace.		
Subtopic 2:	Explain how technology-mediated communication is vital to the virtual workplace.		
Subtopic 3:	Assess at least three types of media used in the modern workplace that enhance communication.		
Subtopic 4:	Evaluate the role media plays in communication in the modern workplace.		
Subtopic 5:	Assess the use of technology in communication and its role in customer satisfaction.		
Subtopic 6:	Critique the role of technology in modern workplace communication and how it has enhanced or detracted from the communication process.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COMM/470. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Communication in Management or Leadership		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Describe the skills necessary to communicate in a management or leadership setting. Analyze communication needs and contexts and how communication styles impact a contemporary workforce. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Describe the various networks of communication, both formal and informal, in the workplace.		
Subtopic 2:	Analyze the various media used for communication in the workplace and the role the selected media play in effective communication. (At least three media must be addressed.)		
Subtopic 3:	Describe potential issues that can arise from verbal and nonverbal communication.		
Subtopic 4:	Discuss strategies to avoid inappropriate communication among employees.		
Subtopic 5:	Explain the role of the manager or leader as communication coach and conflict mediator.		
Subtopic 6:	Discuss different communication styles and how the manager or leader must adjust his or her style to promote effective communication with employees.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COM/410 and COMM/400. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Communication in Training and Development	3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description		
Discuss essential communication principles as they relate to effective training. Emphasis should be placed on the interdependence of training and communication. The following subtopics are to be addressed:		
Subtopic 1:	Summarize the intersection of communication models and training models.	
Subtopic 2:	Analyze common presentation styles.	
Subtopic 3:	Discuss the use of media and how media impacts communication in training.	
Subtopic 4:	Evaluate changes to presentation and communication style when training for a small group and large group.	
Subtopic 5:	Assess the various means of developing training content and materials.	
Subtopic 6:	Evaluate methods to assess the effectiveness of the communication in training.	
Possible Course Duplication		
This course duplicates COM/460. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.		
Possible Supporting Documentation		
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content		

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Creative Writing	3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description		
Select a creative writing genre: poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Examine the creative writing process within the selected genre including prewriting, drafting, editing, and revising. The following subtopics are to be addressed:		
Subtopic 1:	Examine points of inspiration in the creative process.	
Subtopic 2:	Identify the appropriate voice, tone, and style within the selected genre.	
Subtopic 3:	Describe the necessity of identifying perspective and point of view.	
Subtopic 4:	Illustrate the use of imagery and symbolism in creative writing.	
Subtopic 5:	Analyze how form and function change meaning.	
Subtopic 6:	Explain how revision defines final form.	
Possible Course Duplication		
This course duplicates ENG/340, ENG/490, and ENG/495. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.		
Possible Supporting Documentation		
certificate of completion from course of similar content, 2 or more personal letters, or proof of published work as accessed through a website with URL		

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Diversity Issues in Communication		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Assess the barriers to effective communication associated with racial, gender, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity in the workplace and community. Emphasis should be placed on why and how diversity issues influence effective communication and techniques for improving communication skills in response to these issues. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Discuss the different visible and hidden dimensions of diversity.		
Subtopic 2:	Identify how the visible and hidden dimensions impact communication in the workplace and community.		
Subtopic 3:	Evaluate barriers to communication associated with diversity in the workplace or community.		
Subtopic 4:	Explain the importance of strong interpersonal communication skills in a diverse business or social environment.		
Subtopic 5:	Assess the techniques and skills needed to have effective written communication in a diverse workplace or community.		
Subtopic 6:	Examine the role of verbal and nonverbal communication and its impact in a diverse workplace or community.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COMM/315. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Group and Team Communication		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Analyze communication within a group or team environment. Emphasis should be placed on understanding group or team dynamics and the role of interpersonal communication skills within managing group or team dynamics. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Analyze the goals of a specific group or team and the communication involved in meeting these goals.		
Subtopic 2:	Explain theories of group and team communication.		
Subtopic 3:	Discuss interpersonal communication as it relates to groups or teams.		
Subtopic 4:	Analyze the role of listening in groups or teams.		
Subtopic 5:	Evaluate verbal and nonverbal dynamics.		
Subtopic 6:	Evaluate conflict management techniques and the effectiveness of these techniques within a group or team.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COM/330. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Intercultural Communication		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Examine communication in a diverse and global population in a personal, social, or professional setting. Evaluate the dynamics of verbal, non-verbal, and interpersonal communication in a population of mixed culture, gender, or age. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
NOTE In order to receive credit students must demonstrate college-level understanding of communication theory, not superficial, day to day interactions. This is often experienced through immersion into a culture via residence, business relationships, and/or substantial personal and social interactions.			
Subtopic 1:	Explain the role of communication in intercultural settings.		
Subtopic 2:	Evaluate how cultural norms impact communication in multi-cultural populations.		
Subtopic 3:	Assess the importance the role of non-verbal communication plays in a diverse personal, social, or professional setting.		
Subtopic 4:	Analyze the role of interpersonal communication in a diverse personal, social, or professional setting.		
Subtopic 5:	Examine the barriers to communication in an intercultural setting and how these barriers can be overcome.		
Subtopic 6:	Assess approaches to establishing intercultural communication competence.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COM/360, COM/403, and COMM/336. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Proof of residence in another country, proof of mission in another country, professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Interpersonal Communication		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Analyze effective communication in personal, social, and professional situations. Examine the communication process as it relates to personal identity, human relationships, and power dynamics. The following subtopics should be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Analyze communication in personal, social, and professional situations.		
Subtopic 2:	Examine verbal and non-verbal communication. Provide examples from personal, social, and professional situations.		
Subtopic 3:	Analyze the elements of conversation in personal, social, and professional situations.		
Subtopic 4:	Analyze the role of emotion in interpersonal communication.		
Subtopic 5:	Examine the role of conflict in interpersonal communication.		
Subtopic 6:	Evaluate conflict management strategies in interpersonal communication.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COM/320. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Mass Media and Communication		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Examine the processes and technology of communication on societal and global levels. Emphasis should be placed on the role of both print and electronic media and how it impacts mass communication. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Summarize the role of mass communication in global society.		
Subtopic 2:	Analyze the contemporary role of books and the role books play in communication.		
Subtopic 3:	Assess the past, present, and future of magazines and newspapers in society and the role of magazines and newspapers in communication.		
Subtopic 4:	Explain the influence of movies on communication in society.		
Subtopic 5:	Examine how radio and television impact communication.		
Subtopic 6:	Assess the role of the internet in communication. Discuss electronic news, blogs, wikis, and social networking as it relates to mass communication.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COM/340. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Nonverbal Communication		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Explain the use of nonverbal elements in the communication process. Assess the role these nonverbal elements have on effective communication. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Describe how space and time can impact the communication process.		
Subtopic 2:	Evaluate the role of facial expression, movement, and gesture have on communication.		
Subtopic 3:	Analyze how appearance can impact communication.		
Subtopic 4:	Assess the role of smell and other environmental factors on effective communication.		
Subtopic 5:	Examine the role of voice and tone within the communication process.		
Subtopic 6:	Discuss how gender or culture can impact nonverbal elements of communication.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Oral Traditions		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Examine the role of personal narrative, folklore, myth, legends, and other oral traditions have within communication in a culture. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of the performance or communication and the impact on cultural communication and beliefs. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Evaluate the role of personal narrative, folklore, myth, legend, and other oral traditions within a specific culture.		
Subtopic 2:	Describe the process through which oral traditions are shared in a specific culture.		
Subtopic 3:	Assess the impact of the oral traditions on communication within the culture.		
Subtopic 4:	Examine the performance element associated with oral tradition in the culture.		
Subtopic 5:	Analyze the relationship between the oral traditions and cultural beliefs within the culture.		
Subtopic 6:	Describe how these oral traditions are maintained and communicated in a modern society.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, proof of membership/employment with storytelling group/organization, proof of nationality in a culture with a strong oral tradition, proof of residence in a country/region with a strong oral tradition, proof of mission in a country/region with a strong oral tradition, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Photojournalism		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Describe the role of photojournalism in the communication process. Emphasis should be placed on point of view, telling the story, organization, printing techniques, and layout. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Describe the role of photojournalism in visual communication.		
Subtopic 2:	Examine how photographs can be used as visual aids to assist in communicating the meaning of a story.		
Subtopic 3:	Evaluate the importance of point of view within photojournalism.		
Subtopic 4:	Examine how photojournalism can tell a story.		
Subtopic 5:	Discuss the conditions that must be accounted for in order to capture a good photograph including lighting, movement, location, etc.		
Subtopic 6:	Assess the importance of organization, layout, and printing techniques on photojournalism.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of published work as accessed through a website with URL, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Proposal Writing		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Examine proposal writing and its role within business communication. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of proper grammar, spelling, and technical writing fundamentals. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Examine proposal writing as a form of technical writing.		
Subtopic 2:	Compare the four standard types of proposals: Research, Planning, Implementation, and Estimate.		
Subtopic 3:	Describe the importance of applying technical writing fundamentals within the proposal writing process.		
Subtopic 4:	Identify purposes and potential problems associated with writing proposals.		
Subtopic 5:	Examine the four rhetorical elements of a proposal: Invention, Drafting, Revision, and Editing.		
Subtopic 6:	Evaluate the importance of editing and revision within the proposal writing process.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COMM/301. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter or certificate of completion from course of similar content			

Course Title		Credit Award	General Education
Public Speaking		3 UD	Communication Arts
Course Description			
Evaluate the development and delivery of effective public speaking. Assess the use of voice, body language, and media and the importance of persuasion and listening skills in public speaking. The following subtopics are to be addressed:			
Subtopic 1:	Explain the communication process of public speaking.		
Subtopic 2:	Analyze the importance of audience in preparing for public speaking.		
Subtopic 3:	Examine the use of voice and body language in effective public speaking.		
Subtopic 4:	Critique the role of media used public speaking. Indicate how media can be used effectively and how it can be used ineffectively.		
Subtopic 5:	Assess the importance of persuasion in public speaking.		
Subtopic 6:	Evaluate the importance of listening skills and how they impact question and answer sessions in public speaking.		
Possible Course Duplication			
This course duplicates COMM/310. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.			
Possible Supporting Documentation			
Professional letter, proof of membership to speech giving organizations such as Toastmaster's, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion from course of similar content			