



ENGL107

Foundations Writing for English as an Additional Language Students

Assignment #4

The Writer's Story: Looking Back and Looking Forward

(Fall 2025; Instructor: Andy Jiahao Liu; 10 points)

Assignment Overview

Education is never neutral; instead, it is political. A perfect example to illustrate this is the sudden termination of the microcampus partnership agreements between the University of Arizona and its Chinese partners (e.g., Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in our case). The reason behind this decision has a close relationship with political factors, more specifically, the Congressional report, *Joint Institutes, Divided Loyalties*, released on September 12, 2025. In that report, the University of Arizona was classified as having “high-risk” partnerships in China. Left behind are 2,200 students, 36 faculty, and four staff (Alonso, 2025)¹. One commonly adopted accommodation strategy is to shift students from the English-Medium Instruction (EMI) program to the traditional Chinese-Medium Instruction (CMI) program.

This assignment invites critical and in-depth reflection on the transition from the EMI program to the CMI program and its impact on your writer identity. Specifically, you will compose a **reflection letter** addressing at least **four** of the guiding questions:

1. **Writer Identity:** How do you position yourself as a multilingual writer in the EMI program and in the CMI program, respectively? How might the transition from the EMI program to the CMI program impact your multilingual writer identity?
2. **Understanding of English Academic Writing:** How do you understand English academic writing, especially good writing, after taking writing courses offered by the University of Arizona? How might these courses differ from the future English writing courses in the CMI program?
3. **Writing Skills:** Reflecting on your learning experiences across these English writing courses, what writing skills have you developed, or do you wish to further develop? How might these writing skills help you succeed in the CMI program?
4. **Writing Process:** What does your writing process in the EMI program look like? How is it similar to or different from your experiences in the CMI program?
5. **Writing Experiences and Strategies:** What were some frustrating writing experiences that you encountered across these English writing courses? What strategies have you found helpful to thrive in English writing?

¹ Alonso, J. (2025, September 26). *University of Arizona shuts Chinese microcampuses*. Inside Higher Education. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/us-colleges-world/2025/09/26/university-arizona-shuts-chinese-microcampuses>

6. **Importance of English Writing:** What does English writing mean to you in the EMI program and the CMI program, respectively? How might the transition from the EMI program to the CMI program influence your perceptions regarding the importance of English writing in your college career?

Writing Suggestions

- You are expected to write a reflection letter to your instructor; that is, you should include at least the basic elements (i.e., the salutation and the closing).
- You are reflecting on your writer's story. As such, using the first-person pronoun "I" is strongly encouraged.
- Your reflection letter should cover the selected guiding questions **comprehensively and coherently in the narrative format**, rather than the Questions & Answers format.
- Depth is preferable to breadth. That is, you should **provide specific examples and details** to illustrate your points rather than listing multiple items.

Final Product

Your submission to this assignment should meet the following requirements:

- **Length:** 750–1,000 words
- **Title:** You are strongly encouraged to include an engaging title for your reflection letter, though the generic assignment name "The Writer's Story: Looking Back and Looking Forward" is acceptable.
- **Formatting:** You should follow APA Style (7th ed.) to format your reflection letter. References are not encouraged or required for this assignment.

Assessment Criteria

Your submission will be graded on the following criteria, which describe a paper that "Meets Expectations."

Criterion	Description	Points
Reflection	The reflection letter provides in-depth reflections on the writer's story with a clear focus, comprehensively addressing at least four of the guiding questions.	4
Development and Support	The reflection letter uses specific, vivid, extensive details and examples to support ideas and claims.	4
Formatting and Mechanics	The submission meets the required length and follows APA formatting guidelines. The writing is clear, accessible, and easy to follow.	2