

What Makes Writing Meaningful?

Three writing center professionals compiled their research into a book titled *The Meaningful Writing Project: Learning, Teaching, and Writing in Higher Education* (Eodice et al., 2016). The researchers surveyed 707 college seniors and determined common threads in what makes writing assignments meaningful for writers: agency, engagement, and learning for transfer.

Agency

- Balance of required elements and student choice
- Students connecting the writing to their own interests

Engagement

- Immersive experience, often over time
- Opportunities to engage with professors and classmates
- Carefully planned process; many check-ins

Learning for Transfer

- Applicable and relevant in real world
- Connects to future self and future projects

References

Eodice, M., Geller, A. E., & Lerner, N. (2016). *The meaningful writing project: Learning, teaching, and writing in higher education*. Utah State University Press.

Eodice M., Geller, A. E., & Lerner, N. (2017). What meaningful writing means for students. *Peer Review*, 19(1).

Hedengren, M. (2018). What we mean when we say "meaningful" writing: A review of the meaningful writing project. *The WAC Journal*, 29, 252-256.

