

APPENDIX III

Departmental Endorsed Statement on Excellent College Writing

Writing is ongoing practice that builds continually on the materials you read and study; the best writing involves and enables thinking well. As a result, writing requires sustained effort and attention throughout your college education and beyond.

Excellent college writing offers insight into the course topic, argument and exposition suitable to the field of study, and appropriate, accurate evidence. It is characterized by its persuasiveness, clarity, conciseness, and eloquence.

To write effectively, all Colby students should practice

Identifying the basic elements of sentence structure and using accurately the grammatical rules that establish the relations between those elements.

Using effectively the different phases of the writing process: brainstorming, research, drafting, revision, editing, and proofreading.

Organizing written work within the most effective structures for the topic – explication, description, comparison/contrast, analysis, counterargument, narration, etc.

Recognizing, assessing, and creating logical, arguable claims, whether thesis statements or hypotheses.

Discovering and assessing evidence through research that draws upon the variety of modes we now use to preserve, retrieve, and pass on knowledge.

Integrating evidence gracefully within sentences and paragraphs and appropriately employing direct quotations, effective paraphrases, and embedded materials.

Employing varied document styles, writing technologies, and citation forms from different disciplines while meeting their standards for excellence in style, argument, and references.

Your goal as a writer is to master and sustain these skills. Your reward will be the ability to express your ideas and arguments effectively and the critical capacity to understand and appreciate the writing of others.