



ESL COMPOSITION II HANDBOOK: NOVA LOUDOUN

Chris Soholt: csoholt@nvcc.edu

Yu Bai: ybai@nvcc.edu

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College



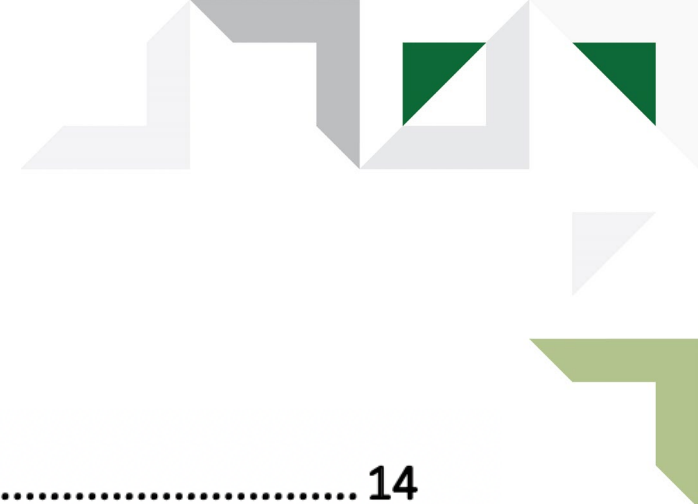
WHY DEVELOP A HANDBOOK?

- Reduce the cost for the students.
- Textbooks are designed for use over a long period of time.
- Make the text closely related to what we teach.
- Be flexible to revise and improve.
- Have students' involvement.

A LOOK AT THE HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 1 GRAMMAR REVIEW	4
Subjects and Verbs	4
Independent Clauses and Dependent Clauses	4
Sentence Types.....	5
Common Sentence Errors	6
The Parts of Speech	7
Nouns.....	8
Pronouns.....	8
Verbs.....	9
Adjectives.....	10
Adverbs.....	10
Prepositions	11
Determiners	11
Three Useful Dependent Clauses	12

A LOOK AT THE HANDBOOK



CHAPTER 2 ACADEMIC ESSAY ORGANIZATION	14
Paragraph to Essay	15
Hooks: An Explanation.....	16
Hook Techniques	17
Thesis Statements.....	18
Topic Sentences.....	20
Paired Introductions and Conclusions	22
Paired introductions and conclusions Exercises.....	23

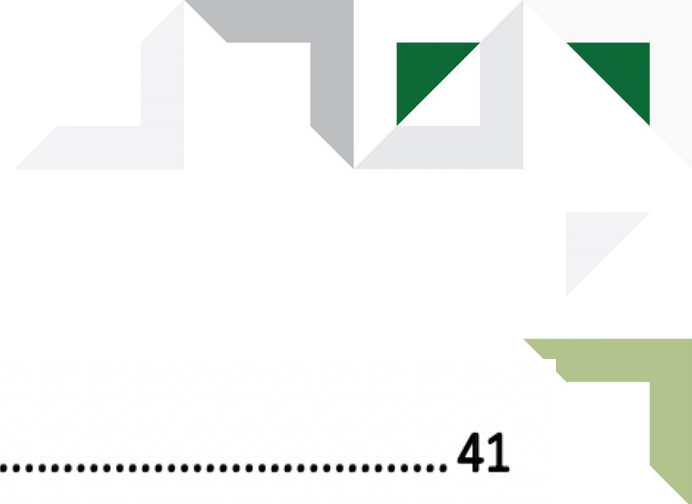
A LOOK AT THE HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 3 CLASSIFICATION ESSAYS	25
Classification Essay Organization	25
Sample Classification Essay	27
Classification Essay Outline.....	30
Classification Essay Language and Grammar	31
Classification Essay Writing Exercises.....	31

A LOOK AT THE HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 4 COMPARISON-CONTRAST ESSAYS	32
Comparison-Contrast Essay Organization	32
Sample Comparison-Contrast Essay: Block Method	34
Sample Comparison-Contrast Essay: Point-by-Point Method	36
Comparison-Contrast Essay Outline – Point-by-Point Method (Recommended for this class)	38
Comparison-Contrast Essay Outline – Block Method	39
Comparison-Contrast Essay Language and Grammar	40
Comparison-Contrast Essay Writing Exercises	40

A LOOK AT THE HANDBOOK



CHAPTER 5 CAUSE-EFFECT ESSAYS.....	41
Cause-Effect Essay Organization	41
Sample Cause-Effect Essay	42
Cause-Effect Essay Outline	44
Cause-Effect Essay Language and Grammar	45

A LOOK AT THE HANDBOOK

REFERENCES.....	46
APPENDIX I: WRITING TOPICS (FOR INSTRUCTORS ONLY).....	47
Classification Essay	47
Comparison-Contrast Essay	47
Cause-Effect Essay	48
APPENDIX II: GRAMMAR EXAMS (FOR INSTRUCTORS ONLY)	49
APPENDIX III: WRITING AND GRAMMAR RESOURCES	50
APPENDIX IV: STUDENT ESSAYS.....	51

WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK?

What students like:

- “The handbook is much better, because it goes straight to the point with clear explanation, and also cover all the main points we need to know.”
- “I will use this handbook because it helps me more. I think this book is easier to understand. It gives you a lot of examples for the exercises.”
- “It is convenient, and the information is brief.”

What to improve:

- “I think the handbook is good, maybe more practice on grammar.”
- “If we get more grammar review, it will help a lot.”

OUR AGENDA

- Pilot the handbook this semester and next spring.
- Continue to revise.
- Use the handbook in all sessions of ESL Composition II in the fall of 2021.
- Remove the grammar book.



IMPORTANCE OF OUR PROJECT

- The development of OER for other ESL courses and more collaborations among ESL faculty and across disciplines.
- Invite students on this journey.
- Keep a growth mindset. This is not a final product but a process.