

Guided Self Placement for English Classes Questionnaire

Read this passage from the essay “A South African Storm” by Allison Howard and answer the questions that follow:

“Today, we’re walking together in the rain, and I’m quickening my pace because—after all , *it’s raining*. That’s what you do in the rain. And even though it’s coming down noticeably harder, it’s 80 degrees and I’m not cold, I’m just wet. My hair is stuck to my forehead and my T-shirt is soaked ... and I’m the only one running for cover. And I think: So what? It’s just water and in the middle of the January summer, it’s warm, refreshing water. Why run? Why do we run from the rain?”

In my life back in the United States, I might run because I was carrying a leather handbag, or because I wore an outfit that shouldn’t get wet. I would run because rain dishevels and messes things up. Mostly though, we run because we just do; it’s a habit. I’ve done it a hundred times: running to my car or the subway station with a newspaper sheltering my head. I have never not quickened my pace in the rain until today.

It took all of my 27 years and a move to Africa, where I don’t have a leather handbag to shelter or a pretty outfit to protect. I’m wearing an old cotton skirt and a T-shirt, and I’m drenched, and I love it. I learn things here in the most ordinary circumstances. And I feel like a smarter, better woman today because I got groceries in the rain.”

Please respond to the following statements with Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
				I understand what the passage above is about and could write about its main ideas.
				I understand this passage and could define some of the vocabulary if asked.
				I could summarize the narrative that the protagonist is describing in this essay.
				I could elaborate on the similarities and differences she describes.
				I could write an essay about two of my own experiences with narrative elements similar to this model.

Please respond to the following statements with Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
				I consider myself a good writer.
				I read novels, news publications, and/or nonfiction regularly.
				I have written a 4+ page research paper.
				I can usually express my point of view effectively in writing.
				I consider myself proficient at developing and defending academic arguments (thesis statements).

Which statement below best describes your writing ability?

- ___ **I feel I'm best suited for ENGL 101X: Corequisite English.** I need extra help with paragraphing and organization as well as the correct use of punctuation and the basic elements of grammar. I do not enjoy reading and writing. I struggle with most writing assignments, so I would benefit from a required lab that focuses on the basics.
- ___ **I feel I'm best suited for ENGL 101: College Composition.** I'm prepared to begin writing at the college level and am ready to write about multiple topics in multiple drafts. I have experience writing longer (4-6 page) essays and papers with some success.
- ___ **I feel I'm best suited for ENGL 101H: College Composition—Honors.** I'm a confident and experienced writer ready to tackle independent projects of greater length and depth of reflection. I want to take on the extra responsibility of an honors-level course in reading and writing. I welcome the challenge of longer reading and writing assignments.
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For Admissions and Advising:

Scoring:

- Students who answer 7 or more prompts with “strongly agree” and/or “agree” should be placed into ENGL101.
- Students who answer 7 or more prompts with “strongly disagree” and/or “disagree” should be placed into ENGL101 with co-requisite workshop.
- Students who answer 9-10 prompts with “strongly disagree” and/or “disagree” should discuss options with advisor.
- Students who answer all questions with “strongly agree” and/or “agree” should be offered the option of taking an honors section if offered.

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