

Writing

*An Essential Pathway Skill for International
and Immigrant Student Success*



Who We Are

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LASNS



Vision

A community where individuals are aware of and are able to access language assessment services and information readily to ensure their full access to all available language programs.

Mission

To provide services which are designed to lower barriers and increase access to language programs in the community by offering streamlined, fast and reliable language assessment and language counselling and referral services.

LASNS

- Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment
- Language Counselling
- Referral Services



Eligibility

- Permanent Residents (PR)
- Refugees
Nominees to Nova Scotia
- Citizens born outside Canada
- International Graduates (with valid work permits) who intend to settle in NS
- Those with a valid work permit and confirmation of application for PR or Nominee status in Nova Scotia

ISANS



Vision

A community where all can belong and grow.

Mission

Helping immigrants build a future in Nova Scotia.

Eligibility

- Same as LASNS

ISANS



English as an Additional Language Programs

- Literacy Classes
- Youth Classes
- Community Language Classes
- Workplace Communication Skills Classes
- Sector-specific Classes
- Skill-specific Classes:
 - **Workplace Writing Classes**

Nova Scotia Community College

Building Nova Scotia's economy and quality of life through innovation and education.



Nova Scotia Community College



120+
PROGRAMS
THOUSANDS OF
CAREER OPTIONS

- Access
- IT & Creative Industries
- Business
- Health & Human Services
- Trades & Technology

STRIVE. nsc

Writing Centres

- 3 pilot centres
- Open to all students, staff, and faculty
- Increased need for writing support





How We Work Together

- LASNS provides information and potential pathways from language learning toward other goals, including: settlement, career(s), and education
- ISANS creates programming to strengthen both language and essential skills to prepare learners for success in employment and at NSCC
- NSCC works with EAL and native English speakers to prepare them for academic (EAP program) and for the workplace

Image: [Lumaxart](#). 2007. [Teamwork Puzzle](#). [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Writing: An Essential Skill

The Government of Canada has identified 9 Essential Skills:

1. Reading
2. Numeracy
3. *Computer Use/Digital Skills*
4. *Thinking*
5. Oral communication
6. Working with Others
7. Continuous Learning
8. *Document Use*
9. **Writing**



4. Writing - The ability to write text and documents; it also includes non paper-based writing such as typing on a computer.

We use this skill when we organize, record, document, provide information to persuade, request information from others and justify a request.

Reference: Government of Canada. 2015. Understanding Essential Skills. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/essential-skills/definitions.html>



Three Organizations, One Thread

Plumbers (NOC 7251)

Plumbers install, repair and maintain pipes, fixtures and other plumbing equipment used for water distribution and wastewater disposal in residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

Reference: Government of Canada. 2017. Explore Careers by Essential Skills: Plumbers (NOC 7251). https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=38&lang=eng



Three Organizations, One Thread

Writing

- Write reminders and short notes to customers and co-workers, e.g. write short notes to inform supervisors about repairs in-progress and tasks to be completed. (1)
- Write short comments in forms and log books, e.g. write comments in order forms to specify part requirements. (1)
- May describe project details on estimate sheets and work orders, e.g. explain the plumbing tasks to be performed on job estimates. (2)
- May write reports to describe events leading up to workplace accidents, e.g. write about injuries and events when completing reports for workers' compensation boards. (2)

Reference: Government of Canada. 2017. Explore Careers by Essential Skills: Plumbers (NOC 7251). https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=38&lang=eng

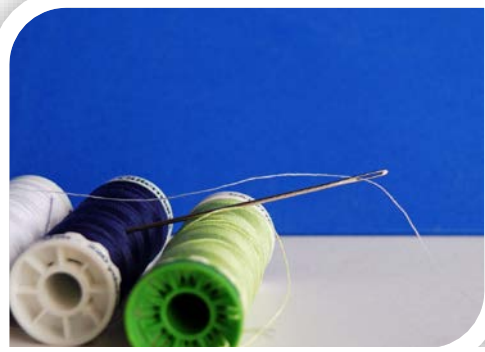


Three Organizations, One Thread

Licensed Practical Nurses (NOC 3233)

Licensed practical nurses provide nursing care usually under the direction of medical practitioners, registered nurses or other health team members. They are employed in hospitals, nursing homes, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centres, doctors' offices, clinics, companies, private homes and community health centres. Operating room technicians are included in this unit group.

Reference: Government of Canada. 2017. Explore Careers by Essential Skills: Licensed Practical Nurses (NOC 3233).
https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=55&lang=eng



Three Organizations, One Thread

Writing

- Write reminders and short notes, e.g. write short notes to remind co-workers of tasks and activities that must be performed during the next shift. (1)
- May write daily logs, e.g. licensed practical nurses in community settings write log entries to record the details of health care visits. (2)
- Write orders to record the service delivery requests made by registered nurses and other health team members. (2)
- Write comments and behavioural observations on a variety of forms, e.g. write descriptions of patients' physical and mental conditions, behavioural concerns and dietary limitations in forms, such as nursing care plans. (2)
- Write unusual incident reports to record events, such as patient falls, medication errors and injuries. (3)
- May write multi-page care plans to outline the care needed to resolve patients' medical issues and support their recovery. (3)

Reference: Government of Canada. 2017. Explore Careers by Essential Skills: Licensed Practical Nurses (NOC 3233).
https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=55&lang=eng



Three Organizations, One Thread

Electrical Engineers (NOC 2133)

Electrical engineers design, plan, research, evaluate and test electrical and electronic equipment and systems. They are employed by electrical utilities, communications companies, manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment, consulting firms, and by a wide range of manufacturing, processing and transportation industries and government.

Reference: Government of Canada. 2017. Explore Careers by Essential Skills: Electrical and Electronics Engineers (NOC 2133).
https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=292&lang=eng



Three Organizations, One Thread

Writing

- Write short e-mail messages to assistants, colleagues and co-workers outlining tasks that need to be done, confirming work plans and providing explanations such as time log entries or billing forms. (1)
- Write routine letters explaining procedures for adding products to product specification lists, to contractors explaining contracting procedures and to clients describing their companies' engineering services. (2)
- Write short reports to provide timely information to clients, colleagues and managers. They write project status reports describing progress made, difficulties encountered and potential solutions being explored. (3)
- May write requests for proposals to invite proposals from potential contractors and suppliers. They often use standard templates to write sections, which explain project backgrounds, product specifications, deliverables, timelines, selection criteria and financing. (3)
- Write persuasive proposals providing detailed technical information about products and services offered, available options, ability to do the work required and cost estimates. (4)
- Write longer reports to provide expert analyses and recommendations to clients, management and colleagues about electrical and electronic systems. They provide relevant data, analyses and justifications to support their recommendations for multi-million dollar projects. They adapt the reports' content to match the perspectives of the readers and change the writing style to suit these non-technical readers. (4)
- May write articles for publication in international, peer-reviewed journals. The articles follow scientific writing standards and present information about abstract and theoretical subjects. (5)

Reference: Government of Canada. 2017. Explore Careers by Essential Skills: Electrical and Electronics Engineers (NOC 2133).

https://www.iobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=292&lang=eng

Trends: LASNS

At LASNS, we assess learners with varied language, learning, and career goals

- Literacy  Doctorate

Common need? Writing skills development

Variable Factors:

- Motivation
- Comfort in L1
- Timing
- Asking for Help



Trends: ISANS

- Writing proficiency generally lower than listening, speaking or reading
- Writing a strong focus in all classes
 - Literacy classes
 - Community Language classes
 - Workplace Communications classes
- Writing scores hold clients back

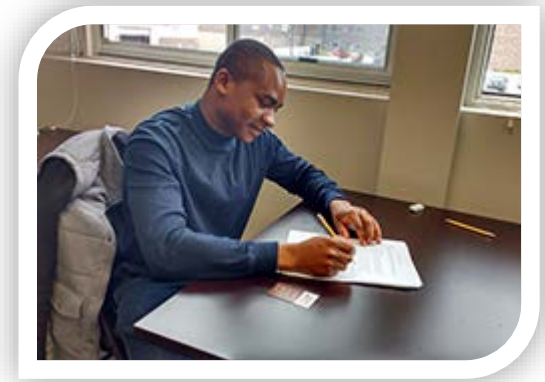


Image: [Veggiefrog](#). Speedbump ahead. [CC BY 2.0](#)

Trends: ISANS

Skill-specific Courses Online

Workplace Writing 1

Workplace Writing 2

Workplace Writing 3

Email Writing

- Identified gap in writing skills addressed in 2006-7
- Writing courses developed at CLB 5, 6 and 7
- Reading component added in 2013-14
- Writing classes recommended for clients with emerging writing proficiency

Trends: NSCC

- **Surveys**
 - 2015 Student Barometer
 - 2015 International Student Barometer
 - 2015, 2016, & 2017 Incoming Student Survey
- **Core areas**
 - Grammar
 - Organization
 - Essay writing
 - Resumes & Cover Letters
 - Clarity in writing
 - Note-taking
- EAL supports for International Students



NSCC Writing Centres



THE WRITING CENTRE

DROP BY FOR FREE, ONE-ON-ONE WRITING SUPPORT.

WE WILL HELP YOU:

- Plan and strategize for your assignments
- Understand your individual writing needs
- Edit your writing
- Access helpful resources
- Feel more confident about your writing skills

For campus schedules and locations, visit nsc.ca/writingcentre

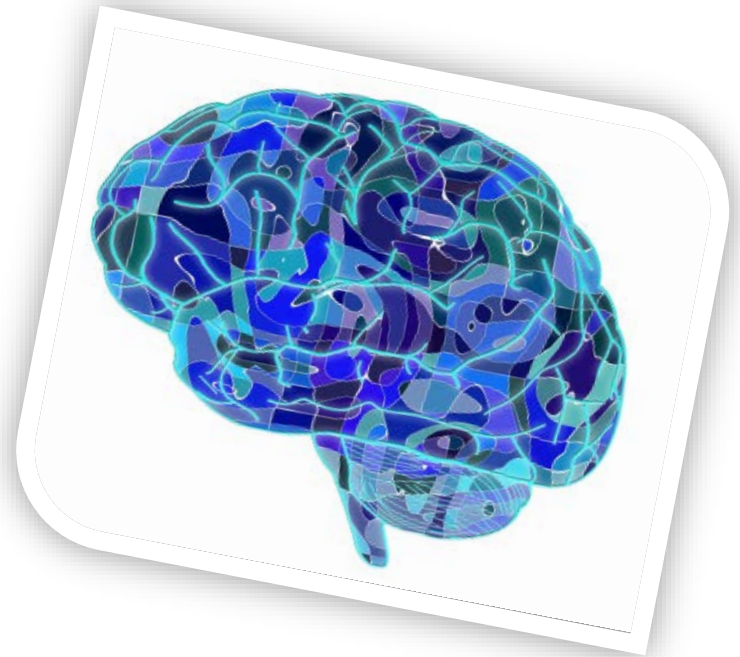
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Writing as Brain-Based Process

Writing involves a very specific part of the brain:
the frontal lobe (prefrontal cortex)

Executive Function Skills

- Thinking
- Planning
- Organizing
- Strategizing
- Self-Reflection
- Metacognition
- Prioritizing
- Goal-Setting
- Self-Control
- Self-Regulation



Teaching Writing

- Teaching writing as a skill not an art
- Writing competencies can be developed
- Increasing writing skill takes time and practice
- Reading inextricably connected to writing
- Models and templates
- Fluency vs. accuracy



Image: Kurmianju. 2015. [Skill Development](#). CC BY-SA 4.0

Writing & Life-Long Learning



Image: Unknown. 2015. [Lifelong Learning](#). CC BY-SA 4.0

- Writing is a life-long process
- Regardless of education, training, and life-experience, writing practice is key
- Writing can be an art, but it doesn't have to be to be valuable
- Supporting writers involves building potential and removing barriers to writing, not just error-correction

Why Our Collaboration is Important

Continuity of support is essential to learner success:

- Barriers
- Joint approach & consistency
- Same goal
- Skill development