

Optional Writing Credit

The UW sets the requirements for W credit, or “Additional Writing”. See the UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING web site at:

<https://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/academic-planning/general-education-requirements/additional-writing/>

“A W course must require 10-15 pages of graded, out-of-class writing, in the form of a longer paper with a required revision or two or more short papers.”

- Papers may be graded by professors, instructors, TAs, and/or readers.
- Students should receive some feedback on their writing; that is, comments on papers should not be restricted to content only.”

In ESS 203, you can do the first option, i.e. write a 10-15 page paper with a revision.

- The UW UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING site doesn’t define how much text comprises “a page”, so I use the same guideline as for the ESS 203 group papers, which is that “a page” corresponds to ~500 words. With that conversion, a W-credit paper should be 5000-7500 words.
- You can count the words in your **References Cited** list. However, keep in mind that any thing in the **References Cited** section must actually be *cited* in your text.
- Most scientific papers include illustrations to show data on graphs, or maps, or interpretations, and since a figure typically takes ½ page, you can reduce the word-count target by ~200 words for each figure. However, each figure must be necessary and must make a point (i.e. don’t include extra figures just to reduce the number of words you need to write. ☺)
- Carry out your research on your project with your group.
- Oral presentation with your group in Lab in Week 10.
- Instead of co-authoring a paper with your group partners, you will write your own individual paper meeting UW’s W-credit requirements.
- Your paper is due Wednesday of Week 10 (last week of classes).
- I will give you feedback (annotations) by Monday of Exam Week.
- Your revised paper is due Friday of Exam Week.