

## Instructions for First-Year Writing 2021 Summer Assignments

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**Email these two required assignments together by Wednesday, Aug 25, 2021 at 4:00PM.**

Send an email containing both of the required assignments described below from your official Moravian account. Email your work to your First-Year Writing professor, and please also CC your first-year advisor, [writing@moravian.edu](mailto:writing@moravian.edu), and [infocus@moravian.edu](mailto:infocus@moravian.edu). Use the subject line Moravian University Summer Writing 2021. To find your First-Year Writing professor's email address, check your Fall schedule to see what section of First-Year Writing you have (either WRIT 101: College Reading and Writing, WRIT 105: College Reading and Writing for Multilingual Learners I, or LinC 101: First-Year Writing Seminar), and then check the email list at the bottom of this page.

### Summer Writing Email: Transition to Moravian University

The transition from high school to college is an exciting period. As with most significant transitions, investing some focused time in deliberate consideration of one's goals, assumptions, and expectations can help make the path smoother and the journey more successful. With this in mind, and with your arrival at Moravian University drawing closer, please briefly introduce yourself and reflect on the following big picture and writing-specific questions in a formal email addressed to your First-Year Writing professor (i.e., Dear Professor [Last Name]):

- What does receiving a liberal arts education at Moravian University mean to you and why? What do you expect to derive from your college education/experience?
- How do you think college will be academically different from high school? What kinds of support do you anticipate needing for the transition? What do you anticipate that you will have to do in order to achieve academic success in college?
- Based on what you have learned about writing thus far in your life, what are the characteristics of good writing? How do you know when writing is good? Describe a piece of "good writing" that you have composed in the past and the process that you underwent to produce that writing.
- Reread the course description for the First-Year Writing class in which you are enrolled (course descriptions available at <https://www.moravian.edu/writing/first-year-writing>). What interests you about this course? What do you hope to learn about in your First-Year Writing course? What are your goals for the course?

Your "Transition to Moravian University" email should be 500–750 words in the body of your email.

### InFocus Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

The chosen book is *The Cancer Journals* by Audre Lorde with forward by Tracy K. Smith. ISBN-13: 978-0143135203.

Purchase at [Moravian University Bookstore](#) or a retailer of your choice.

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Moravian University community will explore the topic of health and justice through our InFocus program. We will consider the ways in which emotional,

environmental, financial, intellectual, social, physical, spiritual, and occupational factors impact our individual and collective experiences with health (and wellness) in the past, present, and future. This year's first-year reading selection, Audre Lorde's *The Cancer Journals*, is a classic touchstone text in the Medical/Health Humanities. In *The Cancer Journals*, Lorde foregrounds the intersections of race, poverty, and healthcare inequality that negatively impact the health of people from marginalized communities.

Audre Lorde was a poet, essayist, novelist, librarian, and activist. She served as New York State's Poet Laureate from 1991-93 and received fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts in 1981 and 1990. Lorde dedicated her work to social advocacy for all women, regardless of race, sexual orientation, or class.

Lorde's illness narrative focuses on the need for women to speak about their experiences and reject the silencing that continues to harm them individually and collectively. As we continue to face the effects of COVID-19 and witness its devastating and disparate impacts on the communities Lorde advocated for, *The Cancer Journals* serve as a primer for how we might constructively change our healthcare systems for the benefit of all. The following statistics offer a larger framework for our community to consider as we begin our investigation of health and justice.

- Approximately 1 in 8 women (13%) will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in their lifetime and 1 in 39 women (3%) will die from breast cancer. (American Cancer Society)
- In 2021, an estimated 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 49,290 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. (BreastCancer.org)
- In women under 45, breast cancer is more common in Black women than white women. Overall, Black women are more likely to die of breast cancer. (BreastCancer.org)
- For additional statistics and supplemental readings see InFocus Supplemental Reading document [linked here](#).

**1) Response to *The Cancer Journals*** (in 600 words or more):

- Imagine that you had to introduce Audre Lorde's *The Cancer Journals* to a family member or close friend. Write a paragraph that introduces the major general themes of her illness memoir.
- From your perspective, what is the most compelling story that Lorde shares in the book? Please be specific.
- Reflect on Audre Lorde's self-expressed identity. Explain why the intersectional nature of her identity (Black, Lesbian, Feminist) matters for this kind of illness narrative.
- What does Lorde's Journals teach you about breast cancer that you did not know before reading her book?
- How has reading this book impacted your perceptions regarding breast cancer and the larger impacts of illness?

**2) Your Questions:**

Bethany Hamilton, Director of the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, is scheduled to speak to our campus community on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6pm. Ms. Hamilton has more than a decade's worth of experience working at the intersection of health equity and social justice and will address her efforts to dismantle racist policies that

shape our health and justice systems ([medical-legalpartnership.org](http://medical-legalpartnership.org)). We will have the opportunity to engage her with questions about her work and Lorde's *The Cancer Journals*. In preparation, please write out two questions that, if given the opportunity, you might like to ask Ms. Hamilton. It might be helpful to recall some of the issues raised by Lorde in Part III of her illness narrative, "Breast Cancer: Power vs. Prosthesis."

**Format:** Your written response to *The Cancer Journals* should be roughly 600 words, double-spaced and emailed as a Word or PDF document attachment. Use your definition of "good writing" from your "Transition to Moravian University" email to guide the writing decisions you make in your *The Cancer Journals* response.

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## Listing of First-Year Writing Professors

Find your First-Year Writing Professor's email address below. When sending your email please cc your first-year advisor, [writing@moravian.edu](mailto:writing@moravian.edu), and [infocus@moravian.edu](mailto:infocus@moravian.edu)

WRIT 101 A & B: COLLEGE READING & WRITING  
Professor [Christopher Hassay](mailto:hassayc@moravian.edu) ([hassayc@moravian.edu](mailto:hassayc@moravian.edu))

WRIT 101 C: COLLEGE READING & WRITING  
Professor [Kailey Tedesco](mailto:tedescok@moravian.edu) ([tedescok@moravian.edu](mailto:tedescok@moravian.edu))

WRIT 105 A: COLLEGE READING & WRITING MULTILINGUAL I  
Professor [Gary Schaefer](mailto:schaeferg@moravian.edu) ([schaeferg@moravian.edu](mailto:schaeferg@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 A: FOOD IN WORLD HISTORY  
Professor [Sandra Aguilar-Rodriguez](mailto:aguilars@moravian.edu) ([aguilars@moravian.edu](mailto:aguilars@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 B: WOMEN'S VOICES IN POP MUSIC  
Professor [Sarah Baer](mailto:baers@moravian.edu) ([baers@moravian.edu](mailto:baers@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 C: YOGA, MINDFULNESS, AND WRITING  
Professor [Kristin Baxter](mailto:baxterk@moravian.edu) ([baxterk@moravian.edu](mailto:baxterk@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 D: BAD ROMANCE: UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS  
Professor [Allison Bloom](mailto:bloom@moravian.edu) ([bloom@moravian.edu](mailto:bloom@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 E: THE ROLE OF STORY, FACT, NARRATIVE  
Professor [Catherine Brandes](mailto:brandesc@moravian.edu) ([brandesc@moravian.edu](mailto:brandesc@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 F: DIGITAL TEXTS AND PHYSICAL TEXTS  
Professor [Jenifer Branton-Desris](mailto:branton-desrisj@moravian.edu) ([branton-desrisj@moravian.edu](mailto:branton-desrisj@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 G: HOUSING JUSTICE: LAW & ADVOCACY  
Professor [Cathy Coyne](mailto:coynec@moravian.edu) ([coynec@moravian.edu](mailto:coynec@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 H: LIVING ON EARTH: SUSTAINABILITY  
Professor [Theresa Dougal](mailto:dougalt@moravian.edu) ([dougalt@moravian.edu](mailto:dougalt@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 I: CHILDREN'S HEALTH GLOBAL COMMUNITY  
Professor [Beth Gotwals](mailto:gotwalsb@moravian.edu) ([gotwalsb@moravian.edu](mailto:gotwalsb@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 J: COMING OF AGE ON A WARMING PLANET  
Professor [Mark Harris](mailto:harrisd@moravian.edu) ([harrisd@moravian.edu](mailto:harrisd@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 K: BIKE TO THE FUTURE! CYCLING BETTER  
Professor [Dietlinde Heilmayr](mailto:heilmayrd@moravian.edu) ([heilmayrd@moravian.edu](mailto:heilmayrd@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 L: STORY EXPLODER  
Professor [Joyce Hinnefeld](mailto:hinnefeldj@moravian.edu) ([hinnefeldj@moravian.edu](mailto:hinnefeldj@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 M: FROM RAINMAN TO MUSIC: DISABILITY  
Professor [Lauren Kahn](mailto:kahnl@moravian.edu) ([kahnl@moravian.edu](mailto:kahnl@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 O: AUTHENTIC IDENTITIES, HEALTH, JUSTICE  
Professor [Carol Moeller](mailto:MoellerC@moravian.edu) ([MoellerC@moravian.edu](mailto:MoellerC@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 P: WRITING WITH LIGHT  
Professor [Susan Morelock](mailto:morelocks@moravian.edu) ([morelocks@moravian.edu](mailto:morelocks@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 Q: "WHAT IS THE GOOD LIFE?"  
Professor [Leon Niemoczynski](mailto:niemoczynskil@moravian.edu) ([niemoczynskil@moravian.edu](mailto:niemoczynskil@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 R: ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL  
Professor [Daniel Proud](mailto:proudd@moravian.edu) ([proudd@moravian.edu](mailto:proudd@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 S: SPORT AND THE SILVER SCREEN  
Professor [Joel Nathan Rosen](mailto:rosenj@moravian.edu) ([rosenj@moravian.edu](mailto:rosenj@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 T: SCIENCE FICTION & FACT: ISAAC ASIMOV  
Professor [Carl Salter Jr.](mailto:salterc@moravian.edu) ([salterc@moravian.edu](mailto:salterc@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 U: A MATHEMATICAL VIEW OF WRITING  
Professor [Nathan Shank](mailto:shankn@moravian.edu) ([shankn@moravian.edu](mailto:shankn@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 V: FOLKLORE & LEGENDS: THE NARRATIVES  
Professor [Kailey Tedesco](mailto:tedescok@moravian.edu) ([tedescok@moravian.edu](mailto:tedescok@moravian.edu))

LINC 101 W: THE THREE AMIGOS: MEXICAN FILMMAKERS  
Professor [Claudia Mesa](mailto:mesac@moravian.edu) ([mesac@moravian.edu](mailto:mesac@moravian.edu))