

Improve Writing Skills

Written assignments indicate your grasp of class work. Obviously it is important that you know exactly what is expected of you in each instance. The most common assignments are either reports or research papers. Appraise what you are being asked to write. Think about the research, reading, and writing you will have to do. And be sure to allow yourself plenty of time to meet the deadline.

Reports are a test of your ability to understand and react to something you have read. An instructor usually expects a short summary of the content of the book or article, your comments on the author's presentation and style, your personal reaction to the work, and an evaluation for its importance.

Research papers are a test of your ability to choose a topic, investigate it, organize the material, and then write about it clearly and accurately. When you are asked to choose a topic, be realistic about your choice. Can you handle it? Does your library have enough resource books? Four or five sources, at least, should be used. The most effective way to collect data is to use index cards. Each card should indicate the source, author, publisher, date and page number. After you have completed the research, arrange the cards in a sequence that will allow you to write about the subject with continuity and coherence.

Before you begin writing a report or paper it is always best to make an outline of what you plan to say. Outlines are as indispensable to such writing as blueprints or drawings are to carpenters. First, write down the main headings, leaving several lines of space in between. Then, under each of the headings, list the subheadings that are to be covered. Identify the specific points that should be developed under the subheadings, and so on. When the blueprint of the

material is complete, you are ready to start writing. Organize your outline well, follow it carefully, and your written presentation will reflect a logical and thorough development of the subject.

WRITE, REVIEW, REVISE

When you are ready to start writing, make sure that you have your reference notes and books nearby, a good light, and good writing tools. Plan to work without interruption for one or two hours. Your outline will serve as your guide.

Even the most accomplished writers expect to make many revisions. So, when you write the first draft, concentrate on content and clarity more than on style. It is a good idea to leave plenty of space between lines for the corrections, additions, and polishing that will come later.

The introductory paragraph in a composition should give a clear idea of what you are setting out to do. Subsequent paragraphs should develop the main idea in an orderly way, with each paragraph containing a transition from the preceding one. The final paragraph should summarize and conclude what has been said. By reading the first and last paragraphs of most non-fiction writing, you should be able to grasp both premise and conclusion of an author's thoughts.

After you have completed the initial draft, put it aside for two or three days. Come back to review it when you are fresh. Be a stern critic. Have you started each heading or subheading with a topic sentence or paragraph that states what you are setting out to do? Do the main sections and subdivisions present the material clearly? Have you omitted points that you listed in the outline? Is there unnecessary or repetitious information? Does the conclusion summarize what has gone before? Are your footnotes and bibliography correct?

Once you have gone over the draft for content and accuracy, review and edit it for style. Try to read as objectively as you can. Remember the underlying importance of grammar and criticize your use of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs. Does one thought flow evenly and obviously from another?

You might want to change the sequence of sentences or paragraphs for better presentation. If so, cut, shift, and staple new parts together. Try to be as brief as possible. Delete what is superfluous and distracting to your main thoughts. It has been said that crisp writing usually has a good deal of shortening in it! The total effect must be readable. Rewrite a section if necessary. Remember that carelessness in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization will also influence the quality of your work.

Now you are ready to make the final copy. Type it if you can, or write very legibly with a carbon copy for future reference. Leave generous margins on the left and right sides of each page. When you have finished, proofread the paper, making any corrections neatly. Review your references or footnotes once again for accuracy. It is always a good idea to

prepare a title page and if possible, to submit the completed assignment in a folder or binder.

Your grades may depend on how well you have mastered these writing techniques. When your marked paper has been returned, review the instructor's comments - you can learn from mistakes you might have made. Remember that how well you write will also be an important measure of your success after you leave school. With patience and hard work you can experience the satisfaction of being happy with the content and style of your writing. The choice of words is right, the grammar is correct, the flow of language is smooth, and it says just what you hoped it would! That is the reward of a successful writer.

This article, "How to Build Your Writing Skills", is one in a series developed for college students by the Association of American Publishers. Other topics in the series are "How to Get the Most Out of Your Textbooks", "How to Prepare Successfully for Examinations", and "How to Improve Your Reading Skills". Individual copies are available in booklet form free of charge to students. If you would like copies please write to: AAP STUDENT SERVICE, One Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016.

Denim Reaches Fashion World

Blue Denim Jeans—the classless uniform of the world today—got their start in 1850 as Brown Canvas Pants made by a man who didn't like the word "Jeans" and insisted that his products were "Waist Overalls." Somehow it's hard to imagine the "Brown Canvas Revolution" and "The Waist Overall Generation", let alone a "Canvasmachine".

The man who started it all was Levi Strauss—yes, there really was such a man—and although the first Levi's for California's Gold Rush Prospectors were made from tent canvas, sailcloth or whatever heavy material he could find, he stitched as soon as possible to denum color blue with the native American dye indigo.

Denim is the Americanized name and version of a rugged fabric once known as "Serge De Nimes" (cloth of Nimes, France). Legend has it that the durable cotton material was used for the sails on Christopher Columbus' ships but while that can't be verified there's no question that denim was a major reason why cowboys, miners and lumberjacks made Levi's "The Pants That Won The West".

Denim's durability and economy made it ideal for work-clothes and that remained its principal use until the 1950's. When it became increasingly desirable—and acceptable—for school and casual wear. It was about that time that Levi Strauss & Company began its rapid growth from a small regional company to the world's largest apparel manufacturer and introduced its "Shrink To Fit" denim in the eastern United States as the jeans "Guaranteed to Shrink, Wrinkle and Fade".

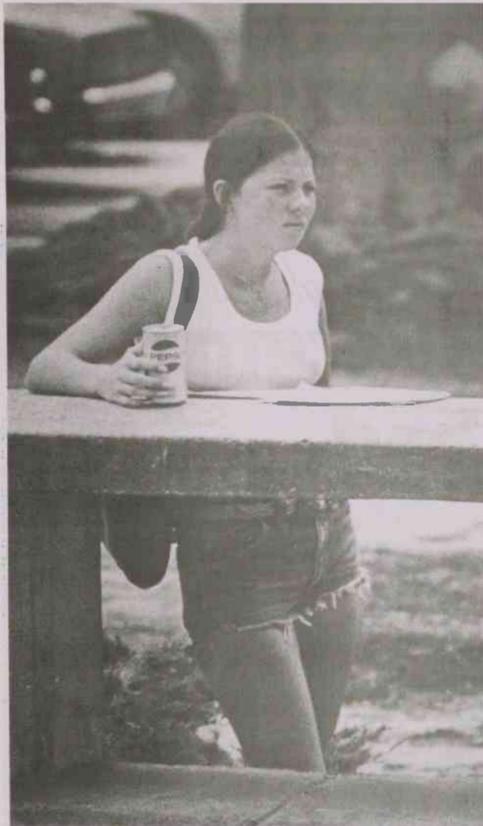
The "Youth Revolution" of the 1960's and a continuing trend toward a more casual lifestyle for people of all ages focused still more attention on denim, as did interest in the fabric throughout the world. From that time until the present there has actually been a shortage of quality, heavyweight denim.

Denim has since proved itself for everything from its original uses to upholstery to luggage to bookbindings to high-fashion apparel and now is taking to the road in the form of the "Denimachine" vans customized for prizes in a promotion co-sponsored by Coca-Cola USA, a division of The Coca-Cola Company, Levi Strauss & Company and the Ford Motor Company.

Smoke Signals

Schedule

Deadline	Printed
Friday, October 1	Friday, October 8
Wednesday, October 13	Wednesday, October 20
Monday, October 25	Monday, November 1
Friday, November 5	Friday, November 12
Wednesday, November 17	Wednesday, November 24
Monday, November 20	Monday, December 6



NOT ANOTHER LINE — An unidentified student looks askance at the registration line outside Marks Hall. This was, she no doubt hoped, the last line of the day. (WHMc)

Dilday Chosen for Rotary Study Tour

James Earl Dilday, coordinator of the college's Title III Program, is one of five young business and professional men from Eastern North Carolina who have been selected to visit South Korea for six weeks, beginning Sept. 25, on a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange project. The announcement was made by Dr. Tom Long of Roxboro, governor of Rotary District 771 which covers a 29 county area extending from Burlington in the West to the Outer Banks in the East.

George E. Gibbs of Murfreesboro, a former district governor of Rotary District 771 and a leader of a similar group to England in 1973, is chairman of the Group Study Exchange Committee.

Participants in a Rotary Group Study Exchange Program must be young business and professional men between the ages of 25 and 35, who are not Rotarians or relatives of Rotarians. They must have been employed in a recognized business or profession on a full-time basis for at least two years and must either be employed or reside in the area covered by the Rotary district.

"I am very fortunate to have been selected as a member of this team," stated Dilday, "as there were eleven outstanding, well qualified men in the final interview process held in Raleigh on April 3. Unfortunately, only five can go."

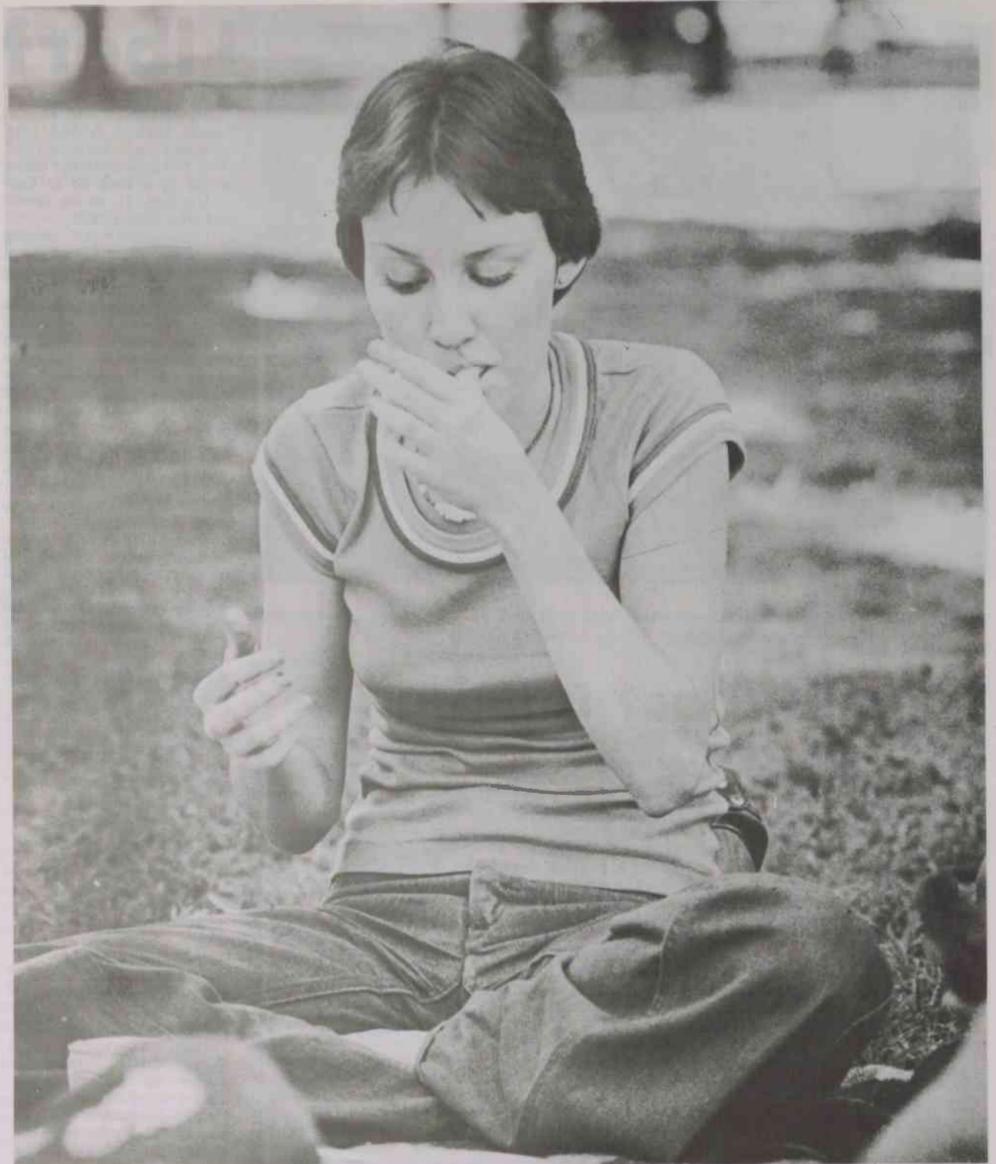
The Group Study Exchange Program, explains Dilday, is an educational activity in which two Rotary districts, in different parts of the world, agree to exchange teams of five young business and professional men. One year the sending district selects the team members, prepares them for their experience abroad, and arranges travel plans. The following year, the receiving team becomes the sender. The Rotary Foundation must approve the study plans and pay the cost of round trip transportation between the two districts for the team and the district governor's representative who accompanies it.

"We will be visiting the southwestern section of South Korea, in the general area around the city of Kwangju," Dilday said. "South Korea Rotary District 337 will be our hosts and we will stay with Rotarians during the six-week period."

The Korean Exchange Team from district 377 is scheduled to visit District 771 of North Carolina from the last of March through the first of May, 1977.

While in Korea, the group will observe firsthand the ways of life of their hosts and will study the economic, social, and cultural characteristics of that nation through travel and discussions within the participatory Rotary District, and through the development of friendships. The visit will provide the team a unique person-to-person opportunity for the promotion of better understanding and friendly relations between the people of the U.S.A. and Korea.

Dilday, an Ahoskie native, is married to the former Joy Durham of Richmond, Va., and they have two children, April 9 years old, and James Earl, Jr. (J.E.), 6. They live on Holly Hill Road in Murfreesboro. Dilday has been a member of the administrative staff and faculty at Chowan College since 1969. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly Dilday, reside on West Street in Ahoskie.



FINGER-LICKING GOOD

Karen Meyers, a pre-Architecture Student from Hampton, Va. enjoys chicken in Squirrel Park. (WHMc)

Carowinds Offering Discounts

A special discount ticket price for high school and college students in the Carolinas has been announced by Carowinds for two fall weekends.

On Sept. 25 & 26 and Oct. 2 & 3, all high school and college students who present a valid I.D. card at a special ticket booth at the park will receive a \$2.50 discount on the regular \$7.50 admission. The discount also applies to families of military personnel, park officials said.

Actor, singer and song writer Keith Carradine is scheduled to appear at 3 and 7 p.m. in the Carowinds Paladium amphitheater on September 25 & 26. Carradine, who won an Academy Award for Best Song for "I'm Easy" in the movie "Nashville," played roles in the Broadway stage production of "Hair" and in several movies, including "McCabe and Mrs. Miller" and "Thieves Like Us."

SIT ON A PUMPKIN?

I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than to be crowded on a velvet cushion.—Henry David Thoreau.

WANTED

Your Photograph

A professional photographer will be on campus this week to make individual color portraits of all students and faculty. These portraits will be included in the college yearbook. Every student is requested to have a portrait made any time this week from 8:00 A. M. until 5:00 P.M., in the amphitheater of Marks Hall. It only takes two minutes to have your portrait made.

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK

AUDITORIUM MARKS HALL

8 - 5 P.M.