

ADJUNCT SPOTLIGHT

Becky Kupferberg

Becky Kupferberg is a retired English teacher who taught for Findlay City Schools from 1989 to 2012. She has worked as a University of Findlay adjunct from 2006 to 2009, and from 2012 to the present, teaching College Writing I and II, and College and Professional Reading. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English education from Bowling Green State University in 1982, and a Master of Arts in Rhetoric and Writing from UF in 2016.

Q. Why did you decide to become an instructor?

A. During the 30 years I spent teaching secondary-level English at schools like Findlay High School, I keenly felt the need to prepare my high school students for college-level writing. Now, as a College Writing II instructor, I enjoy taking students to the next level: preparing them for academic and professional writing. I love working with young people and helping them assert their voices in their chosen fields of study.

Q. What is your teaching philosophy?

A. The only way one can learn to write is... writing. That is why my course is very hands-on. In my class, we are writing all of the time. An educational approach that I use is maintaining a balance of formative assessment (feedback that informs the learning process while it is happening) and summative assessment (measure of mastery that yields a specific grade). In addition, I feel that it is important to foster a healthy working relationship with my students so that they can feel comfortable using me as a resource.

Q. What is one of your favorite assignments you've given your students?

A. In today's world, I feel one of the most important assignments I give is a multimodal composition. Students need practice composing in digital spaces, using images, sound, film – as well as alphabetic text – to convey their ideas in an academic or professional context.

Q. What is the most challenging aspect of teaching?

A. Even after teaching 30-plus years, I am challenged daily to improve my teaching methods.

Q. What do you find most rewarding about teaching?

A. Teaching is a win-win. I learn much from my students!

Q. If you could teach your dream course, what would it be?

A. I have already taught my “dream” course: it was an elective course at Findlay High School called Essay Writing. Because it was an elective, I had complete freedom to design it any way I wanted. Delicious! The goal of the course was to help students improve their academic writing skills in a low-stakes environment where they could take risks and enjoy a large dose of formative assessment. I provided thorough critical feedback, and they received assistance during their writing process. I had students from all levels – AP/honors to basic – sign up for Essay Writing, and I expressed my respect for these students who chose to write academic essays rather than bake brownies or lift weights in other electives offered! I still daydream about that class, and I wish I could teach it again.

