WRITE ON! Writing the University Level Essay
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Abstract
"WRITE ON! “introduces students to the basics of writing essays at the University level. What follows is a brief glimpse into just a few of the topics we will be discussing:

• -- Cultivating an awareness of your intended audience. Thinking about different audiences, including the academic discourse community, professional audiences, and the general public.
• -- Why the five-paragraph essay is 'the bad four-letter word' at the University Level! Some important differences between high-school and college level writing.
• -- The act of writing as "epistemic," or knowledge-producing; writing as a way not just of reporting but as an important tool for discovering
• -- Writing as a way of clarifying and developing ideas
• -- Cultivating beneficial habits of reading and research such as planning the steps or stages of a writing project, taking careful notes, and keeping track of source citations.
• -- Recognizing and valuing the creativity, independent thinking, and intellectual risk-taking involved in effective university level writing.
• -- Developing ideas through the analysis of evidence and the critical use of sources.
• -- Organizing ideas coherently and compellingly.
• -- Recognizing and contending with concessions and counter-arguments.
• -- Defining worthy and compelling issues to write about.
• -- Expressing ideas in clear, cogent sentences while regarding writing as a form of critical thinking rather than merely the achievement of sentence-level correctness.

Faculty Biography
Shefali Rajamannar is Associate Professor of Writing at the University of Southern California. She has received the USC GE Teaching Award (2018), the USC Mentoring Award (2017), and the Professors of Color Award from the Undergraduate Student Government and the Asian Pacific American Student Assembly (2016-17). Dr. Rajamannar has also been nominated and honored by the USC Parents’ Association at the Steven B. Sample Teaching & Mentoring Awards Banquet and selected as a Master Teacher at the USC Writing Program. Her book "Reading the Animal in the Literature of the British Raj" was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2012 (paperback edition 2016). She is currently working on a chapter for the Palgrave Handbook of Animals and Literature (2019). Her areas of interest include writing pedagogy, animal studies, environmental studies, nineteenth and early-twentieth century British literature, and modern European drama.