

WORKSHOP OUTLINE: AVOIDING VAGUE LANGUAGE

I. Basic Description: In 2-3 sentences, describe the workshop.

Students will learn how to write concisely, using details and noting specifics instead of reverting to vague or unclear language.

II. Workshop Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 4; Writing 4; Listening/Speaking 4; Math 1

III. Workshop Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of this workshop, the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify vague or unclear wording;
- 2) Replace vague terms and words with more detailed and specific language.

IV. Workshop Content

The following concepts, ideas, or topics must be covered:

- 1) Clarity;
- 2) Vague, unclear, or ambiguous language;
- 3) Details and specificity.

V. Methods of Presentation

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. Directed class discussions, small-group discussions, peer group writing workshops, individual conferences, small-group conferences, and student presentations;
2. Films, audio-visuials, slides, and hand-out materials may be used to supplement discussion and readings;
3. Debate, role-playing activities, group projects, or other active learning;
4. Guest speakers from related disciplines may be invited to present special topical material;
5. Student ownership and presentation of assigned workshop material.

VI. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the workshop:

- 1) Pre- and Post-tests.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, the student will be able to demonstrate his/her ability to:

- 1) Find and replace weak verbs, vague language, and unclear phrasing with strong verbs, detailed language, and clear phrasing.