

## Reading and Writing Excellence (RWE): Improve and Earn a Bonus

Academic reading and writing skills are essential for success in every course. Students need these skills to handle their assignments, essays, lab reports, journals, opinion papers, exams, and other academic and professional needs.

The Reading and Writing Excellence (RWE) program helps you improve your academic reading and writing skills while you learn your course content. Instead of being extra work, the RWE program supports you while you read your course materials. Please take this one-month opportunity to develop your academic writing skills with an RWE tutor who can help you greatly. You can earn 1 to 2 bonus marks for completion of the program.

### What is the **Reading and Writing Excellence (RWE)** program?

- RWE is a free, proactive program in which UTSC students greatly improve their critical thinking and academic reading and writing skills (e.g. from “D” quality writing to “B” quality) within a semester, by working one-on-one with highly qualified professional writing tutors.
- RWE students read course material or other relevant content for about 40 minutes, then write a summary and critical response to their reading for 20 minutes, on a daily basis. An assigned tutor helps the student develop their language competence and critical thinking skills through supportive personalized feedback.
- During regular one-on-one meetings, tutors guide students to take their writing to the next level.

### What is the **RWE Bonus**?

If you read and write daily within the RWE one-month cycle, you can request that the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) send your name to your professor. To qualify for the full bonus, you need to have written at least 25 critical thinking RWE posts. When your professor receives the CTL list of qualifying students, he/she may add 2 bonus marks toward your grade. (Note: 2 marks is the maximum approved by the Dean’s office for completing the RWE program with 25 critical thinking posts. For 13 critical thinking posts, you can be awarded 1 bonus mark.)

### How do you earn the **RWE Bonus** in your course?

1. Enrol in [RWE](http://uoft.me/RWE) through Quercus (<http://uoft.me/RWE>). Complete the RWE Orientation online to learn the strategies for accelerated writing development used in RWE. You need to complete both this orientation module and the Academic English Health Check to enter the RWE program.
2. Read your course material and write daily to your tutor; use the personalized feedback to improve. Consistency is important. Binge-writing will be discounted. Aim to write at least 25 critical thinking posts.
3. Write your ideas in your own words, as this is a risk-free opportunity for you to develop your writing skills.
4. Please put your course code into your journal title (e.g. “Journal #, <coursecode>”).
5. Attend 2 one-on-one appointments with your tutor.

*Updated by Dr. Elaine Khoo, Sept 17, 2022 and takes precedence over earlier versions. If you have questions, please email [elaine.khoo@utoronto.ca](mailto:elaine.khoo@utoronto.ca).*