

Bad Ideas About Writing Presentations

In the first week of the semester, you will read the Table of Contents of the essay collection *Bad Ideas About Writing* — this will start to give us a sense of the values in the field of composition, or writing studies.

You will then each be responsible for an individual presentation to the class about one of the short chapters in the book. I will distribute a survey in week one where you can list your preferences for which chapters you're most interested in presenting on. We will create the schedule of presentations as a class.

Your 5-minute presentation must address:

- Who wrote this chapter, and what is their area of expertise? (e.g., Where are they a professor and what do they study?)
- What is the “bad idea” that their chapter discusses?
- What makes this understanding of or approach to writing “bad”?
- What kind of scholarship do they cite? Whose work and theories are they synthesizing?
- What alternative to the “bad idea” do they present? What is the “good idea about writing” that we can infer from this reading?
- What does this chapter indicate about the values of writing studies scholars?
- One question for further discussion to get your classmates talking

You should also create a visual aid for your presentation — this can be a handout (I can print it for you) or a PowerPoint. Please include at least two properly cited quotations from the chapter as primary evidence.