

# Press Release

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## ***Educators create free writing textbook***

*University educators collaborate to publish interdisciplinary reference textbook focused on teaching students how to write documents seen in diverse professions*

July 27, 2023

According to the [Education Data Initiative \(2022\)](#), 25% of students work extra hours to pay for their course materials, with 11% skipping meals to afford required textbooks. “Textbook costs are a social justice issue,” said Dr. Caroline Fitzpatrick, Professor of Communication & Digital Media at Alvernia University. Fitzpatrick facilitated the collaboration among more than a dozen other faculty from different disciplines and schools to create the interdisciplinary textbook [Writing the Disciplines](#), which serves as a free online text and open educational resource (OER) for students.

The textbook [Writing the Disciplines](#) is focused on teaching college students how to develop written documents as seen across diverse professions. The edited collection includes individual stand-alone chapters that follow a standard template with content written by experts in a variety of fields. Each chapter is co-authored by 2-3 experts.

All chapters were peer-reviewed, and the edited collection holds a Creative Commons license and stand-alone website. Every chapter is dedicated to the “why” and “how” of a specific type of document found in different professions. The goal of the publication is to provide a valuable resource on writing in the disciplines that is easy to access and free of charge to all users. Additional chapters and supplemental materials will be added each year.

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