

John:

The Freshman English Committee is one of the best I've ever served on, and I certainly don't want to cause a problem or waste time. The discussion at the 5 December meeting, as reflected in the minutes, makes it clear that I'm a minority of one on the issue of required in-class writing. Why don't we just drop it?

If you remember, I was reluctant to see the question on the agenda, saying I did not want it as a topic for discussion if I were the only one supporting the idea. I was then assured that three or four others liked the idea. Perhaps my lousy word-choice ("narrow minded") offended people. I meant, of course, the idea, not any person or people. And I still do believe that a composition course without some required in-class writing is a composition course with an obvious and serious flaw.

But why waste time? Our last discussion--again, probably my fault--turned into an argument. What's so good about the Committee is that we work together with eyes on the problem, not on ~~arguing~~ arguing. ~~It~~ We could drop the topic of required in-class writing, and it could be taken up again some other year in a different atmosphere.

Max