Writing Across the Curriculum

- Why is writing important in Pitsco's systems? *pages 4, 7, 8, 12, 14*

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Curriculum conveys real-world experience via virtual internships

CareerPorts are self-directed, real-world curriculum delivered in the form of a virtual internship with a fictitious company. Each CareerPort is designed to last approximately nine weeks and includes nine core assignments along with enrichment assignments.

Students determine how to approach and complete the assignments and their associated tasks.

The teacher mentor facilitates the activities, responds to students' comments and submissions, and assesses the quality and completeness of work, ultimately delivering a final grade for a students' overall performance on all components.

Numerous resources are available to help students learn about the content if it is unfamiliar. The only requirements are that students:

- **Complete** all required assignments in the time specified by the teacher mentor.
- **Submit** all information and materials as instructed. The quality of work helps determine final grades.

CareerPort Titles

Business Cluster:

- Financial Services
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Professional Writing

Education Cluster:

- Human Growth & Development
- Instructional Design
- Teaching & Learning Psychology
- Teaching Methods & Management

Engineering Cluster:

- Engineering Communication
- Engineering Physics
- Prototyping & Analysis
- Systems & Control

Health Cluster:

- Diagnostic Health
- Environmental Health
- Health Information
- Therapeutic Health

CareerPorts Customer Service

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When you encounter an issue and you're unsure where to turn, call or send an e-mail. I will either help you resolve the issue or put you in contact with a CareerPorts expert who can answer your question.

Darris Lassiter

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At Pitsco: 4 years

Experience: Degree in secondary education: social studies. Has worked in Pathways Customer Relations to help resolve issues encountered by instructors in the field. Oversees CareerPorts Customer Relations to help teachers resolve any issues they may encounter with the system.

Personal: Darris is married to Erica. He enjoys fishing, sports, and movies.

CareerPorts deliver research, writing skills

The value of research and writing skills extends far beyond the language arts classroom. The importance of these skills cannot be overstated. Students must possess the ability to effectively express themselves in writing to succeed in every academic area and career field.

With this in mind, the new CareerPorts curriculum incorporates research and writing skills into every assignment.

As students complete their virtual internship, they are expected to research and execute the writing process in real-world situations. Every assignment in every CareerPort has a written component, ranging from lab reports to memos to lesson plans to pamphlets.

No matter what the primary subject area covered by the CareerPort, each title incorporates research and writing as key elements. For example, the primary focus of the *Engineering Systems & Controls* Careerport is mathematics. Students are expected to complete numerous calculations to help them design and build a prototype prosthetic arm.

However, they must also communicate their numbers and conclusions through memos, reports, and a journal article abstract. As you can see, this approach truly embodies the idea of writing across the curriculum through real-world application.

By design, CareerPorts guide students through the research and writing process. The schedule of each CareerPort assignment details tasks to be completed in four areas: research, design, development, and validation.

- **Research** – Students investigate topics related to the assignment using a variety of media.
- **Design** – Students outline and think critically about the content of their projects.
- **Development** – Students write and create the project.
- **Validation** – Students review and verify the project content and function by proofreading, editing, and testing.

After students have completed the scheduled tasks, they have worked through the writing process from start to finish.

CareerPorts reinforce the importance of communication skills and demonstrate the real-world relevance of effective writing.

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