1. **How are grades calculated?**

   Degree of improvement is huge. Attendance and active participation are high on the list. There are certain standards set by the writing program. See Chris for a copy of the guidelines.

2. **Are there quizzes or exams?**

   Your final portfolio is your final exam. For this, you just need to gather together all your major papers and the drafts that led up to them, so that I can easily study your quarter’s work.

3. **Do all writing classes have the same workload?**

   They are supposed to, yes.

4. **How important is grammar to final grades?**

   Clear, thoughtful, well-planned exposition is more important. In the area of grammar, I am looking for a genuine effort to understand and eliminate recurrent mistakes.

5. **How many hours a week should one spend on the class?**

   At least 11. The exact amount will depend in part on how quickly you read and write, as well as how seriously you take the assignments.
6. What is linguistics?
   Linguistics is the scientific study of language!

7. What role will linguistics play in this class?
   Our class reading and paper topics are centered around linguistic issues. We will also, I hope, use linguistics to understand grammatical points better.

8. Will we read about or study different languages?
   We will concentrate on English and its dialects. But other languages might play a role in your papers.

9. Are writing tutors available?
   [http://humwww.ucsc.edu/writing/TutorHours.html](http://humwww.ucsc.edu/writing/TutorHours.html)
   (This link is also at the course website.)

10. What jobs are there for people who write well?
    Writing well is a prerequisite for most jobs that permit you to keep your hands clean, your knees in good shape, etc. (It can be vital for other jobs; [http://www.cia.gov/cia/employment/before.html](http://www.cia.gov/cia/employment/before.html). Writing well is excellent mental training in general.

   **TWO FOR YOU**

11. Why didn’t some of you ask me a question?

12. What do you do when you feel tired or uninspired but you must get to work on a paper or some other academic assignment?