Writing in discourse communities

***Where does the problem*** *start?*

* Sometimes, college professors expect students to already have a basis of knowledge on a subject. Especially in classes such as English or science that has been in the curriculum throughout elementary and middle school. Other times students have a set way of thinking due to prior classes so it can be hard to adapt and consider new points of view.

***What can you do about it?***

* Work with your teacher to clear up confusion on what they’re looking for in a paper.
* Don’t be afraid to put your own ideas out there and step out of your comfort zone.
* Teachers want you to make mistakes in your writing because that’s what you learn from.
* Try to open up to new ideas and ways of writing in your papers.
* Also incorporate your own interests and things you can relate to in your paper- This makes the paper easier to write because you’re so familiar with your own interests.

**What is a discourse community?**

* A group of people who share a set of discourses, understood as basic values and *assumptions* and ways of communicating about those goals.

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*Are you one of the many students having trouble when it comes to writing papers because of the particular teaching style or subject of the class?*