

# Ms. Michelle's Webpage

## Conversation 400

This page is for the 400 level students of the English Department taking the Conversation course. Here you will find links to all information and assignments given out in class.

Syllabus: [Link](#)

Week 1 assignment:

- ~ Look over the thematic vocabulary on pgs 30-31
- ~ Prepare a presentation on the admission policy of your chosen university for both home and international undergraduate and graduate students. Focus on these things:
  - \* Scores needed on tests (SAT/ACT, TOEFL, GRE, special GREs)
  - \* How many recommendations are needed (if any)
  - \* What essays need to be written (if any)
  - \* If you have to pay to apply
  - \* The due date of the application

Week 2 assignment:

- ~ Look at a degree plan for one of the following majors: English Literature (found [here](#)), International Studies in Communication and Media ([here](#)), Computer Science ([here](#)). Note which classes are required and which students can choose
- ~ Go to the Undergraduate Catalog [here](#) (the file is a large .pdf so may take some time to download). Look at all the different classes offered (left hand column, go most of the way down until you see "Course Descriptions", all classes will be listed there and will include their abbreviated forms [example: HIST for history] - this will also help you to read the degree plans above). Pick a few classes that you might be interested in *that fit into the degree plan* you picked above.
- ~ Go to the Student Activity page ([here](#)) and browse through the different clubs/societies you can join. Find three that you would be interested in joining.
- ~ What's the point of all this? Basically I want you to get an idea on what student's life it like in American Universities. We will discuss both academic and social life next week. 😊

Week 3 assignment:

- ~ Listen to the following articles and answer the questions [here](#)
- \* [Why is College So Expensive?](#)
- \* [School Debt a Long-Term Burden for Many Graduates](#)
- \* [College Student Debt Grows. Is It Worth It?](#)

Week 4 assignment:

- ~ Come up with an activity to review the Arakin vocabulary section you chose in class. You will have ten minutes next class period to teach your words – please use all 10 minutes!
- ~ You will be graded on creativity, if your activity helps us learn your words, and if you use your time well.

~ Looking forward to participating in your activities!

Week 5 assignment:

- ~ Look over the [Basic Debate Format](#)
- ~ Prepare a *two minute* argument either for or against one of the following statements:
- \* Family is the most important thing in a person's life.
- \* Money can buy love.
- \* A man should always open doors and give up their seats for women.

Week 6 assignment:

~ No homework this week. I know, I'm awesome. But do look over the basic debate format again – it's important to know!

Week 7 assignment:

- ~ Look over the following website: <http://deathpenalty.procon.org/> and make notes on different pro/con arguments. You can prepare as much as you want, but be prepared to argue for either side! (You will be graded on how well you do!)
- ~ At least look over these two pages: [Top 10 Pros and Cons: Should the Death Penalty Be Allowed](#) and [Did You Know? Little Known Facts in the Death Penalty Debate](#)
- ~ If you have time and want even more information/arguments about the death penalty debate, you can find a list of websites [here](#). However, remember that some of these sites are for the death penalty and others are against, so keep this in mind as you look over their sites.

Week 8 assignment:

~ Listen to the following article: [Second Chances, Not Jail Time, For Criminals](#). The whole piece is 30 minutes long, but you are only required to listen up to 18:10 (though feel free to listen to the whole thing!). Fill in this worksheet as you listen: [Link](#).

Week 9 assignment:

~ Read [Judges Write Creative Sentences](#) and answer the questions [here](#)

Conversation Exam Questions

Be prepared to speak on one of the following questions.

1. What does someone need to do to enter most universities in America (basic admission policies)?
2. Why are all students required to take tests like the SAT, ACT, and GRE? Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?
3. Discuss American student life including how classes are chosen, academic life, and clubs/societies.
4. What options are available to pay for university? Do you think the cost of university is worth it?
5. Discuss the different people involved in a court case, the different crimes one could commit, and the vocabulary used in a trial.
6. What is the basic debate structure and what should you do in each part?
7. What is important to do when you create an argument and debate?
8. What are your thoughts on the death penalty? Are you for or against it and why?
9. What are some new approaches people are taking toward justice in the work or not?
10. Do you think creative sentencing is a good idea and will help to deter crime or not? Give examples.

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