

Selecting and Submitting Your Writing Sample

You should carefully select your writing sample as this is carefully considered by the Graduate Committee.

Your writing sample must be written in English, may come from either scholarly or professional contexts, and should consist of one or more pieces totaling 10-15 pages. The pieces you submit may either be original work created in response to previous scholarly or professional commitments, revised work, or work created especially for the RTC Graduate Committee's consideration. Web pages may be submitted for review, but such pages should be viewed as supplemental.

If you wish, you may also provide a brief explanatory paragraph contextualizing your writing sample.

The best choices for a writing sample show clear evidence of (or potential for) your ability to:

- Formulate interesting and novel research or scholarly questions
- Support an argument
- Synthesize resources
- Employ and cite external sources.

Creative writing samples are usually less useful in helping the committee to assess these skills. If possible, the content of the sample should be related to the your areas of interest in the RTC program.

If you have recent nonacademic experience, you may choose to submit samples of professional work that:

- Are primarily your own writing
- Meet the length guidelines specified above
- Demonstrate your analytical and writing skills.

Such professional writing samples might include brochures, grant proposals, pieces for publication in nonacademic journals or in-house publications, or reports. However, because many such documents are collaboratively produced, it is important to explain the extent and nature of your contributions to such work.

If you have additional questions about the writing sample, you may contact Graduate Program Director Beth Flynn.