



Sarah Van Clef Professor of English



I teach Introduction to College Writing to first year students.

How long have you been an English professor?

2 years

Where do you currently work?

Monmouth University and Brookdale Community College (NJ)

How do you spend most of your time at work?

I meet with students and support them in their writing journeys and their transition to higher education and academic–college life. I also review and provide feedback to student essays and in-class exercises. I lesson plan and schedule course activities and gather information for future workshops and lectures.

Why did you choose this career?

I love teaching students and I love being there to support them on their academic journey to find their own voices in the world.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I graduated with a double master's degree: Master of the Arts in English and Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with a Concentration in Creative Nonfiction. I also took a few really important classes, such as a Teaching Composition Course, Rhetoric in Writing, and Literary Theories, that helped me understand the foundations of teaching. Being a tutor in English Writing since getting my bachelor's degree has helped me connect with students and educate them with tools on how to feel confident in themselves and in their writing.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really love meeting new students and watching students evolve as writers. Seeing students' eyes light up when they discover more information is something I live for.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

What I find most challenging as a professor is balance! As a passionate teacher, I want to dedicate my life to my students' success, but I struggle remembering that I, too, have a life! That is something I want to work on as I move forward in my teaching career.

What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?

One of my first jobs was a bus aide for special needs children. This job helped me immensely because I work with special needs adults in a more academic environment today!

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Follow your passion! Your life and your profession will be more fulfilling if you are passionate about what you're doing!

SARAH'S FUN FACTS
I am a lead singer in a cover band. I've been singing since I was 5 years old. I love any cooking competition shows and I'm a New York Rangers Fan.

