

## Guidelines for Writing Projects

The first of your writing projects is **due on day 9** of our class. Here you will find the instructions and topic for the written assignment.

First, here are some **important guidelines** for all German writing assignments:

- 1) Please **write in your own words**. The topics are designed to practice exactly what we are learning in the textbook, and the textbook and our online exercises should be your primary reference aid. You **may not use Google Translate** or any other full translation software: the purpose of these assignments is to show that you can use the **material we are learning** in class to express your own ideas and thoughts. It is fine to look up **a single word** or two in any dictionary (Google included, single words), but **do not translate entire sentences**. Using Google or any other translation program will not only result in a **poor grade (it is considered plagiarism and a violation of academic integrity)**, but it is NOT an effective way of communicating or learning the German language, as **Google translations are notoriously bad** and do not reflect how actual Germans talk. Please use the textbook and our own class handouts and materials as your references, not the (often incorrect) uninformed internet or Google. If in doubt, don't hesitate to ask your instructor for small assistance, or visit the Language Coach in the Language Resource Center on campus.
- 2) Please **do not ask your German-speaking friends** or relatives to correct your work. Believe me, you can write all that is needed for each writing project easily, given the structures and vocabulary we have learned in class, and **you will learn far better through trial-and-error** and struggling to compose your ideas than just copying what a friend tells you. Although you are graded on the accuracy of your work, **you will not be penalized for mistakes that you could not have known** about if we have not yet learned them. In addition, if your German-speaking friends use advanced constructions, you will not be learning and practicing what we need to learn first, which is the **basic building blocks and baby steps to master a new language in all its complexity**.
- 3) Your writing projects **must be typed**, not hand-written. Part of learning a new language is becoming comfortable with technology: it is expected that you will learn to **include typed umlauts** (ä, ö, ü and ß), so you should learn how to type those on your computer. We will discuss typing umlauts in class, and there are links for assistance on our course webpage, if you need help. Also remember to **capitalize all nouns**! For your instructor's ease of grading, please **double-space** your typed paragraph. Take your time and please **proofread** your work. **Spelling does count**, so if you wish to turn on spell-checking in German in your word-processing application, please do so!
- 4) From time to time, you will be asked to **give personal information** and details in your written assignments. Please feel free to **'invent' or 'lie' about yourself if you wish** — in no way do we wish to endanger your privacy, but we need to be able to talk about personal topics in German, which requires practice. If you ever feel hesitant about sharing information, simply **make up an alternative persona** or create details out of your imagination: there's no requirement to be truthful, only to practice your German!

The above guidelines will be in force for ALL of the writing assignments this semester!

Because we've now learned to talk about **personal hygiene, morning routine, and health and illness** using the **reflexive verb** forms, the main focus of this writing assignment will be to **describe your daily routine with a particular focus on your hygiene, fitness and health concerns**. **See the questions you will need to answer on the next page.**

## Schreibprojekt für Kapitel 9: Meine Tagesroutine und meine Gesundheit

For your writing project this chapter, please **write approximately 15-18 sentences** in a cohesive paragraph or two, describing **your morning and daily routine** with a particular focus on what you do for your health and fitness, and how you manage any illness (if you have one). You should be **very specific**, and don't hesitate to **share (or invent!) private details**. Talk about your **personal hygiene** in the morning or throughout the day, consider what you do to **maintain your health**, and describe both your **physical and emotional states** wherever possible. It's normal that this might be somewhat "boring" — routines are by necessity repetitive and usually not very exciting! The purpose here is to **use reflexive verbs and health/fitness vocabulary**, not provide an exciting story. You can also choose to **invent or exaggerate any details that you like**, although you don't have to. You should answer **some or many of the following questions**:

- Wann stehen Sie auf?  
*(When do you get up?)*
- Was machen Sie zuerst, wenn Sie aufstehen?  
*(What do you do first, when you're up?)*
- Wie bereiten Sie sich auf den Tag vor?  
*(How do you get ready for the day?)*
- Duschen Sie sich morgens oder abends? Baden Sie sich?  
*(Do you shower? Do you take a bath?)*
- Wann und wie oft putzen Sie sich die Zähne?  
*(When and how often do you brush your teeth?)*
- Rasieren Sie sich? Schminken Sie sich?  
*(Do you shave? Do you put on makeup?)*
- Welche Apparate benutzen Sie im Badezimmer?  
*(What objects/appliances do you use in the bathroom?)*
- Wie fühlen Sie sich morgens oder abends?  
*(How do you feel in the morning or the evening?)*
- Was machen Sie am Tag für Ihre Gesundheit?  
*(What do you do during the day for your health?)*
- Haben Sie Gesundheitsprobleme? Machen Sie sich Sorgen um Ihre Gesundheit?  
*(Do you have health problems? Are you worried about your health?)*
- Wie halten Sie sich fit? Machen Sie Fitnesstraining oder Sport?  
*(How do you stay fit? Do you exercise or do sports?)*
- Wie und wann entspannen Sie sich? Wie amüsieren Sie sich?  
*(How and when do you relax? How do you have fun?)*
- Müssen Sie sich manchmal beeilen? Verspäten Sie sich oft?  
*(Do you sometimes have to hurry? Do you often run late?)*
- Worüber freuen Sie sich? Worüber ärgern Sie sich?  
*(What do you look forward to? What do you get annoyed about?)*
- Haben Sie Hobbys? Wofür interessieren Sie sich?  
*(Do you have hobbies? What are you interested in?)*

To get full credit for this assignment, **you must use at least four reflexive verbs**, such as **"ich putze mir die Zähne"** or **"ich dusche mich morgens"**. If you answer most of the questions above, you will fulfill the reflexive verb count easily!

You may wish to **use a few of the following "linking" words**. Be aware that they are all **time elements**, so if you start with "dann", then your **verb will be in second position** as in any normal sentence: **"Dann putze ich mir die Zähne."**

zuerst = *first off, firstly*      dann = *then*      danach = *after that, afterwards*      endlich = *finally*

Please be aware: **if you type your sentences in English into Google Translate, it will not necessarily give you the vocabulary and reflexive forms we are learning!** Google has odd phrasings and you need to be able to produce sentences on your own, not simply copy what an internet source tells you. If you need to look up the **vocabulary beyond our chapter's content**, please use an online dictionary such as <https://dict.leo.org/german-english/> to find the terminology that is most normal, and if you're in doubt about verb conjugations, <http://www.verbix.com/languages/german.html> is a great resource as well.

Please make sure to **type** your writing project, and remember to **double-space** for much easier corrections! You can either bring a **printed paper copy** to class on Day 9, or you can **submit the assignment as a file upload** to our course webpage if you prefer not to print at home.

Below is an **example of what you could write**. Feel free to use similar formulations in your own writing, but you must **change the details** to fit your own situation!

### Meine Tagesroutine und meine Gesundheit

Ich stehe normalerweise um 8 oder 9 Uhr auf, denn ich muss morgens nur am Computer arbeiten. Gleich nachdem ich aufstehe, koche ich mir eine Tasse Kaffee, und ich esse Müsli oder Joghurt zum Frühstück. Dann putze ich mir die Zähne, und ich dusche mich. Ich bade mich nie! Ich rasiere mir dreimal die Woche die Beine; ich benutze nur ganz normale Rasierer, keine teuren elektrischen Dinge. Nach der Dusche föhne ich mir die Haare, und ich schminke mich. Ich benutze einen Lockenstab, um mir die Haare lockig zu machen. Endlich ziehe ich mir meine normale Hauskleidung an, und ich setze mich an den Schreibtisch und mache meine Schularbeiten.

Während des Tages fühle ich mich gut, nur ab und zu habe ich Kopfschmerzen, weil ich nicht genug geschlafen oder genug Wasser getrunken habe. Leider mache ich nicht viel für meine körperliche Gesundheit: an Wochenenden arbeite ich im Garten, aber unter der Woche bin ich nicht sehr aktiv. Ich mache mir schon Sorgen um meine Gesundheit, denn ich werde immer älter, aber irgendwie bin ich zu faul, Fitnessstraining zu machen. Aber meine geistliche Gesundheit ist gut: ich entspanne mich oft, nachdem ich abends nach Hause komme, und ich genieße meine Arbeit und habe nur ab und zu Stress von der Uni. Auch schlafe ich regelmäßig acht Stunden pro Nacht, und ich esse ziemlich gesund mit wenig Zucker und Fett.

Abends unterrichte ich Kurse bei MiraCosta, und ich komme ziemlich spät nach Hause. Ich schaue ein bisschen Netflix oder Nachrichten im Fernsehen, dann putze ich mir die Zähne, wasche mir das Gesicht, und gehe gegen Mitternacht schlafen. Wenn ich ins Bett gehe, springt meine Katze auf das Bett und sie hilft mir immer, schnell einzuschlafen.

**Please see the grading rubric on the next page.**

### Grading Rubric for Schreibprojekt 9

Element	Criteria	Score
<b>Content</b>	Length is a <b>minimum of 15 full sentences</b> . Most of the questions are answered with <b>details</b> about hygiene and health. Meaning is <b>clear</b> .	____ out of 16
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Student uses a variety of <b>vocabulary and idioms as learned in class</b> . Stock phrases are used correctly and/or adapted clearly. Student adds vocabulary elements to build personalized content. <b>Computer translations are avoided!</b>	____ out of 20
<b>Reflexive Verbs</b>	Student uses <b>at least FOUR DIFFERENT REFLEXIVE VERBS</b> , with the proper use of <b>reflexive pronoun</b> ("mich" / "mir"). Verb conjugations are correct, and placement follows the proper rules.	____ out of 12
<b>Other Verbs</b>	General <b>subject-verb agreement</b> is correct. Any present-tense forms are conjugated correctly. If either the <b>Perfekt</b> or the <b>Präteritum</b> past tense is used, the verbs are correctly formed and structured.	____ out of 16
<b>Word Order</b>	Student follows <b>word-order rules</b> correctly. Time elements at the beginning correctly place the <b>verb as second element</b> . <b>Time-manner-place</b> elements are in their proper order.	____ out of 10
<b>Case and Endings</b>	Student uses <b>nominative, accusative and dative objects</b> with their correct endings, as well as <b>adjective endings</b> when needed. <b>Prepositions</b> are used with the proper cases. Gender mistakes are few.	____ out of 10
<b>Style</b>	Paragraph is well-constructed and <b>organized</b> . Sentences show some <b>individuality</b> and <b>complexity</b> , using conjunctions and word order to add variety.	____ out of 6
<b>Mechanics and Spelling</b>	All content is correctly <b>spelled</b> . Nouns are <b>capitalized</b> . <b>Umlauts</b> are correctly placed. Essay is <b>typed</b> .	____ out of 10
<b>Total</b>	Total of All Criteria: <b>(final score is percent out of 100 points total)</b>	____ <b>out of 100</b>