Dear Transfer Students:

As you know, writing is central to any strong liberal arts education, and Barnard College is particularly proud of having educated accomplished writers including Zora Neale Hurston, Cristina Garcia, Edwidge Danticat, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anna Quindlen, and Mary Gordon. As you inaugurate your own writing career at Barnard, you might find the Writing Center particularly helpful. In addition, Art of the Essay (Fall: ENG BC 3103, Spring: ENG BC 3104) is a course designed specifically to hone your expository writing skills; it also fulfills the First-Year Writing requirement for transfer students. Ideally, your academic program will continue to include writing-intensive courses across the curriculum, thus enabling you to compose your thoughts with increasing clarity and sophistication.

When in doubt, ask your professors to specify their preferred method of documentation. For example, where the discipline of English follows the conventions of The MLA Handbook (MLA format), social scientists tend to use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA format). These documentation guidelines and other invaluable information on expository writing are compiled in Diana Hacker’s Rules for Writers, Barnard’s recommended handbook, which is available at Book Culture (536 West 112th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam).

Please pay particular attention to the sections devoted to documentation and plagiarism, which can be found online at the First-Year Foundations section of the English Department website.

http://firstyear.barnard.edu/firstyear/plagiarism/introduction

If you have questions, don’t hesitate to stop by my office (215 Barnard Hall) for further consultation. We hope you enjoy the ongoing process of learning to think and write at Barnard and beyond.

Sincerely,

Wendy Schor-Haim
Director of First-Year Writing