



Welcome to the Real Reader Program!

Volunteer Position Description

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Overview

Real Readers work directly with one or more undergraduate students enrolled in the Communicating Your Professional Identity courses (WRTG 27X) at the University of Rochester. Alumni feedback and “real-world” perspectives are an important part of this course, as students explore career options, practice their spoken and written communication skills, and create a portfolio of professional materials to support their search for internships, research opportunities, jobs, and graduate school.

Term of Service and Time Commitment

Two semesters (September to May), with the option to renew annually if mutually agreed upon between you and staff. Please expect to spend approximately five hours over the course of a semester for each assigned student. [See the typical timeline.](#)

How the Program Works

Each student in the WRTG 27X courses selects a Real Reader to work with for the duration of the course. Your student(s) will contact you throughout the semester for 1) a conversation about your educational background, career path, and advice related to their goals and 2) feedback on their writing and speaking assignments.

Assignments you will be asked to review include resumes, CVs, cover letters, networking correspondence, and application essays for research programs, internships, or graduate school. Your student(s) may also ask for feedback on LinkedIn profiles, professional writing samples, and/or video recordings of elevator pitches or answers to interview questions. A mock interview is another assignment option.

To learn more about the WRTG 27X courses and what Real Readers do, please see this article from UR NewsCenter: [‘Communicating Your Professional Identity’ Flourishes at 10.](#)

Our Expectations

- No special expertise in writing or communication is required. Your role is simply to serve as an audience, not an instructor.
- Read and agree to the Data Release and Confidentiality Statement; this includes not saving or sharing a student’s work without their permission
- Respond to your student’s outreach and assignments in a timely manner
- Answer specific questions and provide comments about the student’s ability to communicate their professional identity effectively; please refrain from “correcting” or editing student work
- At the end of the semester, evaluate the quality of each student’s final drafts, as well as their professional behavior during the semester; these ratings make up 10% of a student’s final course grade
- Complete a brief survey at the end of each semester, so that we may continue to improve the volunteer experience

Resources and Support for Volunteers

- Training materials and information about the WRTG 27X courses, including syllabi, assignment prompts, a guide on responding to student work, and other supporting documents
- Direct access to a team of staff and instructors at the University of Rochester