Writing in Seminar: Concise Policy Statement

General Principles:

- Writing is an integral part of the Seminar conversation,
- because writing in Seminar furthers an intellectual engagement with the text,
- and because writing complements discussion in the following ways:
  - writing encourages careful reading of the text;
  - writing and revising a formal essay develops the student’s skill in carrying a line of reasoning through from beginning to end, a skill that individuals don’t necessarily develop during group discussion;
  - writing, in or out of class, can be used to stimulate discussion, explore interpretations of the text, practice using the text as evidence, relate the text to values or personal experiences, respond creatively to the text, or respond to discussion.

Specific Requirements:

- In order to give students sufficient practice in detailed textual analysis and argument, each semester 12-15 pages of formal writing are assigned, in the form of two or more typed essays.
- In accord with the Honor Code students should cite quotations from and references to the text using the MLA or another established standard of documentation.
- In order to emphasize the importance of both writing and discussion, each should be weighed about equally in the final grade for the course.

Approved by the Collegiate Seminar Governing Board, May 2005