UNC has a history of building and opening time capsules. In spring 1988, Carolina’s senior class buried a time capsule on Polk Place to remain for 25 years. As part of the 2013 Homecoming activities and the class of 1988’s reunion, the time capsule will be opened and the items inside put on display. Another capsule, sealed in 1965, will be opened in 2015.

On the last day of English 105, my students made their own class time capsule. They filled it with valuable advice for future UNC first-years, because they wish to share what they have learned about how to learn and excel in college. Please enjoy this gift from the Fall 2013 English 105, Wilson Hall #139 2pm and 3:30 pm seminar students. To open the capsule, turn the page!

Rebecca Nesvet
In University, they care about your opinion! Don't just regurgitate the information you find, expand on it. Offer your own insights and your work will be all the richer for it.

Pick a good topic.

It is impossible to write a strong paper without a topic that can be argued strongly. Also try to make it pretty original so you stand out, but don't write about something crazy that you can't argue.

Dear writers,

When writing for any class make sure to complete an adequate amount of research before writing. These professors are experts in their fields, and have spent their entire lives studying their one subject matter. Other than that enjoy your time here UNC. These will be the best 4 years of your life.
First-year writers are nervous, revision is hard, and it seems like a lot of mistakes. As finding out you’re not alone: it can be a scary time.

There are resources you can start with:

1. Visit the online help center.
2. Use the library’s resources.
3. Ask your professor for advice.

Make sure you check the rules of the platform before you start writing. You can start writing as you go through the topic.

When you write, look at the task and break it down into manageable parts. It may seem like a lot, but it’s okay. Just write it down and keep it on track.

The writing task may seem time-consuming, but if you take it slow, it will work.
Keen straight to the point is simple way. Being concise to say things in a sound smarter. Always try to think it makes your ideas to paper just because you don't add unnecessary words.

Writing is a small that you will need your whole life. Chemistry, calculus, physics, those things are important to knowing how to communicate. And that is one of the most important things. I've learned this for

Be concise and avoid jargon. As these things will only clutter a

Never go to a class Dudley.

Notice Remember that writing is a learned skill. Even if you do not like writing or have struggled with it in the past, with enough perseverance you can be successful. In our English course, you can be successful in our English course. Use this opportunity to further develop your interests and solidify your understanding of the basics of writing.
Be Confident!

- Don't be scared of research, libraries, public speaking, or big papers.
- It's really not that hard... at all!
- If you think you can't do it, then you're just giving up.
- Believe me, you'll be fine. Don't let it intimidate you.

The biggest difference between high school & college writing that I've noticed thus far is the grading. In high school I remember always having the mindset of 'I have to meet the length requirement.' While this is still true in college, there is a much greater emphasis on quality of content. So focus more on what you're writing than how much you've written.

Your writing should be very clear and understandable, so make sure you don't include "fluffy phrases."

Get your research done early, as it usually is the most time consuming aspect of any project. This will also allow you plenty of time to think about your information and begin mentally drafting your project.

- Work on drafting hooks and conclusions, this is the area most people have trouble with.
- Become technologically savvy, it will help out because I use my computer in every single class.
- Work on writing about topics that don't interest you because it will make you more passionate about topics that do interest you.
Advice for 1st Year Writers

To first year writers:

When finding a topic to write about, in any class, pick a challenging new idea. Don't pick a bland topic because it is easy. Pick a topic that you are interested in. This will make it easier to write about it.

Something you are interested in.

To make it easy to research and actually write about it, pick a broad topic. It is nearly impossible to research every single thing that is available for writing, so be open-minded and willing to explore the many resources available for writing, doing research or completing projects.

Be open-minded and willing to explore the many resources available for writing, doing research or completing projects.
Take the time to evaluate what the source is and how you can benefit from it. If you can't know now it applies, you can't expect someone else to find out through your writing. Don't wait too long to start an assignment. Waiting until the last minute is stressful and not very productive. You don't have to finish it, but do know what is required. If you are being asked at the night before, it is better to ask what is needed and not worry about it.
Dear Freshman,

As a new writer in college, the best piece of advice I can give you is to be open-minded. You may have to change your writing style and techniques to help improve your writing. Regardless, you will definitely learn new things and problem-solve with different methods.

If you are unsure of what your professor is looking for in your writing, be sure to shoot him/her an email or visit them during office hours. Never assume their expectations. You may have been an excellent writer in high school but that isn’t always the case at the college level.

Start projects as early as possible! (This includes papers.) Though you may think it will fly by, you can never give up. Also, the earlier you start, the easier it will be. You may need to ask the professor questions earlier on or get feedback to improve your writing earlier.

I promise it will fly by, but you can do this! You’re a Carolina student!