

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Writing Intensive Program

Student Responses Fall 2012

"The writing aspect forced deeper and more productive thinking relating to the ideas in the works read and the ideas discussed in class." "It helped me think critically about beliefs other than my own on their own terms, and gave me guidelines for comparing mine and others." "I never considered myself to be a competent writer, but feel much more confident." "Having to use my own words to express the ideas and lessons presented in class caused me to gain a more complete and deep understanding." "Even though it was a lot of work, I think it led to this being one of the most rewarding classes I've ever taken."

SA = Strongly Agree A = Agree D = Disagree SD = Strongly Disagree

1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.	SA	A	D	SD
<i>"Introduced me to the proper form of scientific writing, which will come in handy in the workforce." "I learned a lot about scientific writing, something I had previously had very little experience with."</i>	89	225	49	4
	24%	61%	13%	
<i>"The TA gave assignments in small, manageable portions and gave detailed feedback." "The first draft helps me get my ideas out there in a structured way. The peer review is great because I am able to strengthen my ideas through others." "I had only had English writing experience, so this class taught me a lot about writing for classics and new citation guides." "It allowed me to practice writing more than other classes have, and as a result, I feel I grew as a writer."</i>	SA + A = 85%			
	BIOL 1103L/1104L/110L7/1108L			
	179	607	121	50
	19%	63%	13%	
	SA + A = 82%			
2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning of the subject matter of this course.	SA	A	D	SD
<i>"The topics for WIP [assignments] correlated with our labs and lectures." "The assignments forced me to apply what I was learning in a hands-on way to a real-life situation."</i>	142	195	27	6
	38%	53%	7%	
<i>"The assignments forced me to read closely and analyze both the material and my own thoughts about it." "Absolutely. We had a writing assignment every class & although time consuming, it was the most helpful in strengthening my writing." "It required me to think beyond what was said in class and required me to go deeper into the theories."</i>	SA + A = 91%			
<i>"Writing the material out was really helpful in working through a lot of problems; organizing my thoughts helped me understand the material and how to talk about it."</i>	BIOL 1103L/1104L/110L7/1108L			
	208	642	113	46
	21%	63%	11%	
	SA + A = 84%			
3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course.	SA	A	D	SD
<i>"Peer reviews encouraged me to look at other perspectives, and research often developed into topics covered by our lectures." "To write decent assignments, I had to make sure I understood the course content." "The various drafts and peer reviews made me want to do well and not just quickly write something and turn it in."</i>	127	199	35	6
	35%	54%	10%	
<i>"If I did not participate in class, I would not understand how to write my paper." "In having weekly responses, it was utterly necessary to keep up with the reading and be active and attentive in class." "Yes. I feel I learned so much more through critical thinking, analyzing the work, then forming my own opinions."</i>	SA + A = 89%			
	BIOL 1103L/1104L/110L7/1108L			
	230	592	129	48
	23%	59%	13%	
	SA + A = 82%			

4) The writing assignments helped me to understand the ways of writing that are particular to this subject (for example: the ways of writing in the sciences, the social sciences, or the humanities). *"Scientific writing is a different beast from an English paper." "It helped me examine sociological theories in everyday language." "Helped me improve my sociological writing, analyzing an issue from a more objective perspective." "In every Anthro class, you learn about ethnographies and what anthropologists go through in order to write them, but the writing assignment in this class really solidified what exactly goes into the process and how much work it really takes." "I definitely learned that whenever you're writing in this field, you need to back up everything you say with data."*

SA	A	D	SD
160	170	33	4
44%	46%	9%	

SA + A = 90%

BIOL 1103L/1104L/110L7/1108L			
261	666	73	32
25%	65%	7%	

SA + A = 90%

5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective: *"She reviewed aspects of writing we were having trouble with and involved us with group exercises to improve." "Erin is a very caring, helpful teacher who always offered a lot of clear, constructive criticism." "Jessica took time to read closely the assignments, which helped me think about what I wrote about, because I knew someone was taking time to read my work." "She completely explained how to cite and do footnotes. If it weren't for that, I would have failed." "She was very open to meeting on an individual basis & had a good balance of helping & pushing me to improve my writing without spoonfeeding."*

SA	A	D	SD
140	166	38	15
39%	46%	10%	

SA + A = 85%

BIOL 1103L/1104L/110L7/1108L			
335	556	58	48
33%	56%	6%	

SA + A = 89%

6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course: *"I feel better prepared for geology field work/study." "It was more work. Regardless, that's never fun." "The WIP added an extra, tangible element to the course." "Much preferred the layout of this class over traditional test taking. Helped me learn by taking time to apply theories." "The weekly assignments were helpful in attempting to analyze and understand literature and draw connections consistently." "The course would have been lame without the writing." "The WIP was the most enjoyable and helpful part of the class. No doubt." "Yes. I think I was able to absorb and retain a great more material in depth." "Smaller class size and TA were very important to the experience of the course."*

SA	A	D	SD
94	176	70	26
26%	48%	19%	7%

SA + A = 74%

BIOL 1103L/1104L/110L7/1108L			
99	327	260	112
12%	41%	33%	

SA + A = 53%