

# Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Writing Intensive Program

## Student Responses Spring 09

*"This was the first time I ever had to write for [a course] other than English. I've never written for a science class or done a lab report. With Whitney, we were able to understand what she wanted out of our writing, and she was always there to help."*

*"I felt that the writing assignments helped me to think through exactly what we were testing and proving in the lab. By articulating exactly what had happened and what the results were, I was forced to explain exactly what was going on."*

*Without the writing assignments, the labs would not have made as much sense to me"*

*"Writing the essays allowed me to think deeper into what we were learning. A lot of times, I had to sit down and say, 'Okay. So we got this answer. Why?'"*

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

### 1) My experience in this course strengthened

**my writing.** *"Provided a way to make writing a process not a one-time thing—improvement was over time." "Wish I'd had this class before my senior year." "It improved my ability to find concrete evidence to support abstract ideas." "This course taught me to view things in an enlightened way—to see differently means to write differently." "This course gave me the opportunity to write more and to [receive] more feedback on my writing."*

BIOL1103L

SA	A	D	SD
46	194	51	5
15%	65%	17%	2%

**SA + A = 80%**

*"It made me think more about my audience and how they don't always have the same background of information that I have."*

75	209	99	16
19%	53%	25%	4%

**SA + A = 72%**

*"We had numerous writing assignments which encouraged us to improve our writing skills, as we did two drafts of each essay. The peer reviews also helped to improve this skill." "We had to use citations, compose organized and thoughtful papers, and explain our experiments in essay form. All of these things greatly strengthened my writing skills."*

BIOL 1108L

56	175	72	9
18%	56%	23%	3%

**SA + A = 74%**

### 2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning

**of the subject matter of this course.** *"The writing assignments enabled me to put into practice the styles of writing we were learning about, as well as make the information more concrete."*

*"I was able to make deeper connections with the content through writing." "By writing about the material, I gained a deeper sense of how to apply it to my teaching." "Having to write about subjects whether in reflections or in formal papers forces you to take a surface understanding of a subject to a deeper level."*

BIOL1103L

SA	A	D	SD
113	165	17	3
38%	55%	6%	1%

**SA + A = 93%**

*"The final paper has helped me to apply all of the things I have learned in here into one comprehensive assignment."*

102	216	63	12
26%	55%	16%	3%

**SA + A = 81%**

*"By writing everything out and explaining what I did step-by-step, I learned the concepts more in depth." "You often don't think about why something works." "Even when doing the experiment, I never knew what the carb cutter lab was all about. However, when doing the actual paper, I finally got it."*

BIOL 1108L

47	171	78	12
15%	55%	25%	4%

**SA + A = 70%**

3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course. “The assignments were incredibly stimulating causing me to be involved in the course on a heightened level.” “Reflections helped me keep up w/reading assignments.” “They made me think about the subject matter and voice my opinions.” “If I did not have to write the reports, I would have been less motivated to know exactly what was going on during the procedures.” “Because I prefer to not speak in classroom settings, this portion of the laboratory allowed me to fully express my opinions and thoughts.” “It allowed the different groups to work together to solve a problem.” “Since we had writing assignments to do, I was more inclined to ask questions to understand the topics better. This way, I would be able to complete the assignment better.”		SA	A	D	SD
		84	158	44	7
		28%	53%	15%	3%
		SA + A = 81%			
	BIOL 1103L	110	204	67	12
		28%	52%	17%	3%
		SA + A = 80%			
	BIOL 1108L	56	153	88	13
		18%	49%	28%	4%
		SA + A = 67%			
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). “I learned how to write for a scientific audience. I also learned how to structure each of the components for a good research article.” “Definitely the most helpful lesson learned out of this lab was how to write professionally.” “I have a ton more confidence with my scientific writing.” “I feel more comfortable and prepared to write lab proposals and research articles. I will be using the methods and techniques I learned in this class in my future academic career, and I feel this class helped increase my ability to write in the science language.”		SA	A	D	SD
		89	167	31	8
		30%	56%	10%	3%
		SA + A = 86%			
	BIOL 1103L	102	207	66	12
		26%	53%	17%	3%
		SA + A = 79%			
	BIOL 1108L	84	187	34	6
		27%	60%	11%	2%
		SA + A = 87%			
5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective: “She gives thoughtful comments that help push me.” “I’ve learned to have more cohesive and persuasive arguments.” “Maria was excellent in helping me to shape a stronger essay & in pointing me towards the points that I should focus on.” “Whitney is not only a great help to my writing but very encouraging!!!!” “I really understood requirements better after the WIP TA gave instructions.” “She always gave constructive feedback, aiding in improving my writing.” “The notes that she wrote on our drafts were encouraging and helpful.” “His feedback was helpful without being overly critical.” “It was all very effective; his comments helped me understand how I should explain and analyze something in the context of a scientific paper, as well as to lend to my understanding of the subject itself.”		SA	A	D	SD
		84	155	31	21
		28%	52%	12%	7%
		SA + A = 80%			
	BIOL 1103L	138	189	51	12
		35%	48%	13%	3%
		SA + A = 83%			
	BIOL 1108L	116	163	25	6
		37%	52%	8%	2%
		SA + A = 89%			

**6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course:** *"The writing was exciting and worthwhile." "I found the writing useful in that it forced me to analyze every detail, and thus, allowed me to make connections that I would have otherwise missed." "Especially since I'm not good in discussion, writing was a great vehicle." "Being a not-so-outspoken person, it helped me to express my thoughts without feeling uncomfortable." "I'm proud of the papers I completed." "I will definitely teach with a little writing involved after taking this course."*

	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
	58	136	72	26
	<b>20%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>SA + A = 66%</b>			
BIOL 1103L	51	158	130	55
	<b>13%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>SA + A = 53%</b>			
BIOL 1108L	31	115	115	53
	<b>10%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>17%</b>
	<b>SA + A = 47%</b>			