

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences **Writing Intensive Program**  
**Student Responses Spring 2010**

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*"I had to think in a scientific manner when completing the writing assignments. They were quite different than the English papers I am accustomed to writing. I had to incorporate figures, graphs, and tables, and be able to explain them. I had to learn how to relate to an audience that was not a part of these complicated experiments." "I feel that the writing, although not enjoyable, really helped increase my understanding of the concepts and experiments. It is easy to follow a list of steps or mimic one's group members, but the writing assignments require you to understand the material fully." "Overall, it made me more confident when it comes to writing assignments, which I previously dreaded."*

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	SA = Strongly Agree	A = Agree	D = Disagree	SD = Strongly Disagree
<b>1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.</b> <i>"The research paper taught me how to do comprehensive research and incorporate that research into a paper as supporting evidence. I had never used this method before in a science class until this lab." "I had to make many drafts to result in a well-written, final product, and through these drafts, I was able to learn how to put together a well formed and argued paper." "It helped me understand the approach I needed to take to enhance my skills and better my understanding and appreciation for the research process." "Developed a sense of curiosity and need for research to answer my own questions." "Constantly writing and making connections to the readings makes your writing more articulate and helps retain the knowledge more."</i>	77 19%	262 66%	54 14%	6 1%
	SA + A = 85%			
	BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
	132 15%	493 56%	202 23%	44 5%
	SA + A = 71%			
<b>2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning of the subject matter of this course.</b> <i>"Forces me to think more about the topic (whether it's researchable or not, if there's any flaw to it, how to improve it, etc.)." "This course has sparked a great interest of this subject for me. I believe the assignments directly relate to why I am now intrigued." "I do think that writing about what we learned helped me really learn &amp; be able to apply what we learned to our own beliefs and philosophies." "Having to explain the problems in words forced me to have a deeper understanding of the [math] problems." "Having to write pieces for a 'non-scientific' audience forced me to understand the material enough to put it in simple terms, rather than simply restate what the lab manual or TA said." "The writing assignments helped make what I learned in class come together in a way that made me understand how all of the facts connected."</i>	171 43%	199 50%	25 6%	4 1%
	SA + A = 93%			
	BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
	167 19%	483 55%	193 22%	35 4%
	SA + A = 74%			
<b>3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course.</b> <i>"I paid more attention to everything when I knew I was going to have to write about it because it was my evidence for my assignment." "I was able to contribute more to discussions and lab because I knew more about what I was doing."</i>	127 32%	204 52%	54 14%	6 1%
	SA + A = 84%			

*"I knew that I had to get a good idea of what was going on, what steps were going on and in what order, and how we arrived at the results in order to be able to write about it for a grade later. This also encouraged me to ask questions I probably would not have asked otherwise." "Knowing the material better after my writing assignments gave me the confidence to speak up in class." "I had to ask questions if I didn't understand; otherwise, my writing would suffer." "Or the reverse—participation & preparation for daily activities helped write the paper & vice versa."*

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L				
202	440	193	44	
23%	50%	22%	5%	

**SA + A = 73%**

**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).** *"By working on the writing assignments, I was able to grasp a better understanding on how to format and organize a scientific piece of writing, from introduction to conclusion. I learned how to cite a source properly, and how to use a search engine to my advantage." "The writing assignments helped me to differentiate an English form of writing from a Science form of writing. I had no idea there was a difference." "Biblical exegesis is different than [interpreting] literature. It was good exposure." "I have never done a literature review before, so that was a learning experience." "I learned to write in APA. I also now understand why APA is used in this subject/ type of research."*

SA	A	D	SD
142	206	43	5
36%	52%	11%	1%

**SA + A = 88%**

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L				
219	482	149	26	
25%	55%	17%	3%	

**SA + A = 80%**

**5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective:** *"Yes, I enjoyed meeting with her. She made me feel comfortable and confident in writing." "Libba was very helpful and encouraging. She offered insightful feedback and made herself more than available to answer questions." "I got supportive, constructive responses." "Helped me with ways to improve my paper, and provided new techniques for writing and research." "She gave positive reinforcement and criticism that helped structure and strengthen my writing." "She is awesome. She helped me put ideas together, and she is excited about what she does." "Miriam was very helpful and specific with her advice, and it helped improve my writing."*

SA	A	D	SD
136	212	35	10
34%	53%	9%	4%

**SA + A = 87%**

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L				
298	464	96	18	
34%	53%	11%	2%	

**SA + A = 87%**

**6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course:** *"I got a chance to show what I knew instead of just being tested over certain facts." "There was a greater sense of accomplishment, knowing that the experiments were leading towards a cohesive product." "I believe that the writing portion of the lab emphasized what we actually did during the class period, and it reinforced the concepts discussed during the class discussions. It also helped us develop the mindset needed to do well on the lab assessments, since critical scientific thinking was required for most of the assignments." "It made me want to learn more about what we were learning." "It helped me get to know my peers better."*

SA	A	D	SD
85	215	73	22
21%	54%	18%	7%

**SA + A = 75%**

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L				
105	307	333	140	
12%	35%	38%	16%	

**SA + A = 47%**