

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences **Writing Intensive Program**
Student Responses Spring 2011

"Writing about the lab helps you put it into perspective; without writing, the lab is just a set of random steps with no apparent reason to them." "Overall, I was very happy with the WIP experience, and I feel that I wrote a paper that I can be proud of." "Since I had put thought into the writing assignments, I was better prepared to discuss in class." "I wouldn't have known or understood very much of what we were doing or been able to connect to a bigger picture without [the writing]." "I feel like I learned a lot about paper construction, about how to really coherently express myself in a logically ordered way. Before, I used to be all over myself with my writing."

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

1) My experience in this course strengthened

my writing. *"It helped me really synthesize information and apply what I'd learned." "I learned more about citations and grew comfortable using in-text citations." "Precis assignments made me think about writing." "I learned how to write so that I could make other non-science people interested in what I was talking about." "This course gave me more practice in finding and citing valid resources." "The research proposal and article helped expand my thinking and observation skills." "I improved on the performance "on my formal lab reports and the incorporation of real-world references with the data that I gathered in lab. I'm exploring the options of undergraduate research, and I now feel more prepared to write up my findings in a professional lab setting."*

SA	A	D	SD
85	199	52	10
25%	57%	15%	3%

SA + A = 82%

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
100	396	143	42
15%	58%	21%	6%

SA + A = 73%

2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning

of the subject matter of this course. *"Having to read and critically write on a topic allowed me to concentrate on certain things in the text and forced me to do outside research and learn more about the subject matter." "Lots of research equals lots of learning." "Writing the papers helped me to delve deeper into the topics & focus on greater detail on the readings." "It was nice when material we discussed in class came up in the research, & I was better able to understand what I was researching." "In order to write a paper, you have to integrate the material much more than taking a test on it." "The writing assignments allowed for personal reflection & connections to the course content." "Sometimes, I would not fully understand what I had done in lab until I wrote the paper about it. It is much easier to understand something when you have to explain it to someone."*

SA	A	D	SD
130	188	23	6
37%	54%	7%	2%

SA + A = 91%

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
123	452	121	40
17%	61%	16%	6%

SA + A = 78%

3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be

actively involved in the course. *"I found myself thinking about the subject matter outside of a class a lot as a result." "I had to make sure I understood the materials, so I paid attention & participated in class." "These assignments have made it necessary to read prior to class and also to participate in class discussions." "They helped me to better understand the topics, and I was able to answer questions in class."*

SA	A	D	SD
107	192	42	5
31%	55%	12%	1%

SA + A = 86%

"Because I knew that I had to be able to write about the lab, I was more involved in it." "If I knew that I was going to have to write a paper about it, I was more likely to ask questions and write down all of the details." "I was constantly writing in my lab journal since we could reference it during the lab assessment." "The writing assignments directed my thinking and helped me prepare for lab each week."

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
126	439	133	41
17%	59%	18%	6%
SA + A = 76%			

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). *"The writing assignments & how they were assessed definitely put the emphasis on math-specific conventions of writing." "Classics writing is much different than scientific writing as I have learned." "Writing the 'science article' made me understand how scientists look at information better." "If I do any writing in my career, it will be more of a science writing. In that way, this lab helped me more than a traditional English class." "Constructing drafts, receiving feedback, and learning the ways to write scientifically in this lab greatly helped me in my scientific writing." "I feel very comfortable with the Chicago Manual of Style."*

SA	A	D	SD
121	182	37	5
35%	52%	11%	1%
SA + A = 87%			

5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective: *"She was very helpful. She read multiple drafts and made comments that produced a much stronger paper. She also made suggestions to the professor that made the writing process more effective." "Her response was very helpful. It's always hard to know know what the professor wants in papers." "He was a huge help on both the writing and analysis." "Anytime I turned in a lab report, I got helpful comments on what I needed to do to improve my writing and help it flow better and make more sense to someone else reading it." She helped "with my paper and gave me good ideas and showed the way to further my knowledge to write better."*

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
161	497	73	26
21%	66%	10%	3%
SA + A = 87%			

SA	A	D	SD
119	163	47	13
34%	47%	14%	4%
SA + A = 81%			

6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course: *"It was painful, but I couldn't avoid learning." "Ended up enjoying this, which was surprising, because I usually hate writing papers." "It helped me understand just how Important reporting and writing in the laboratory is. It also introduced me to and piqued my interest in a few subjects dealing with science." "I was held responsible for fully understanding the works and making connections." "It forced me to gather more information to fully understand everything." "I did not enjoy the writing, but it was helpful and satisfying in the end." "The Writing Intensive Program is excellent: more learning, less memorizing!"*

BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
201	464	68	28
26%	61%	9%	4%
SA + A = 87%			

SA	A	D	SD
76	183	70	16
22%	53%	20%	5%
SA + A = 75%			
BIOL 1103L/1107L/1108L			
70	210	233	118
11%	33%	37%	19%
SA + A = 44%			