

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Writing Intensive Program

Student Responses Fall 2013

"Writing about the material we learned helped me grasp the information much better and allowed me to be a more active part of the class. I feel like I will also retain more of the information because writing constantly ingrained the readings and concepts." [My WIP TA] was wonderful at helping us along the writing process. For most of us, it was the first time we have had to write this much for a science class, so many were intimidated at the start. However, Sam did a great job at preparing us for the formal lab reports and our research at the end of the semester!" "After all of the writing assignments, I feel like I can properly explain anything related to this class because of all the great feedback that I received."

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

1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.	SA	A	D	SD
<i>"Writing regularly has increased my skills and my confidence."</i>	91	229	46	2
<i>"Improved my ability to synthesize my thoughts."</i>	25%	62%	12%	
<i>"Having to turn in multiple drafts and meeting with the TA to discuss forced me to push myself in the re-writing process."</i>	SA + A = 87%			
<i>"I was able to receive feedback and revise my paper, which helped me understand what needs work."</i>				
<i>"Wonderful to have an opportunity to improve writing in an academic setting specifically for my major."</i>	BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
<i>"I gained experience in different writing styles: research, summary, and connections."</i>	201	572	98	47
<i>"This semester, we were assigned to write a post lab on the effects of color filters on photosynthesis. Through this post lab, I feel like I was able to leave my comfort zone of writing English papers and analytical papers and actually write about something that matters to my major."</i>	22%	62%	11%	
	SA + A = 84%			
2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning of the subject matter of this course.	SA	A	D	SD
<i>"Occasionally in previous labs, I would perform a step of experimentation just because the lab manual said to. In this course, I had to figure out what steps I needed to take in order to have a successful experiment. Writing was key in this because it allowed me to think out exactly what I needed to do before actually performing it."</i>	165	176	26	4
<i>"By writing, I am able to gain a deeper understanding because I have to fully understand the [math] problem first before I am able to put my answer into words."</i>	45%	47%	7%	
<i>"Yes! It forced me to process the material with my own perspective in a succinct and informative way."</i>	SA + A = 92%			
<i>"It helped me to understand the material better because I had to think more conceptually when writing."</i>				
	BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
	228	634	81	40
	23%	65%	8%	
	SA + A = 88%			
3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course.	SA	A	D	SD
<i>"After completing the assignments, I was able to participate in class and give my thoughts."</i>	129	196	40	2
<i>"Many of our discussions were based off of our written assignments, which helped me stay engaged in the conversations."</i>	35%	53%	11%	
<i>"It caused me to reach out and collect and evaluate data, much like an anthropologist."</i>	SA + A = 88%			
<i>"By growing more familiar with the content through writing, I was more apt to contribute in class discussions."</i>				
<i>"The writing assignments did encourage me to be actively involved and participate more in lab. By completing the writing assignments before lab, I had an idea of what to expect during lab discussion, so I was able to ask questions and make comments on the subject matter."</i>	BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
	242	588	105	44
	25%	60%	11%	
	SA + A = 85%			

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 greatly helped me understand the ways of writing in the sciences. For example, I learned how to properly find and cite appropriate sources and include legends with figures and tables in the research proposal and research article." "I learned how to cite sources and paraphrase pertinent information into my writing." "With this lab, I was able to see that it is not required to use elaborate words and figurative phrases like it is in an English class. Biology is only interested in the information for the most part, which gave me more time to focus on the accuracy."*

SA	A	D	SD
152	177	35	5
41%	48%	9%	

SA + A = 89%

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
300	613	70	32
30%	60%	7%	

SA + A = 90%

5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective: *"Very clear, very helpful. Knew exactly what she wanted and didn't want and used that to give specific feedback, which really helped me." "His feedback was great and it really helped. He made the whole class comfortable, and I never felt intimidated writing for his lab. His feedback was very positive and made me feel better about my writing." "Tommy did an excellent job of providing feedback that inspired my thinking. He gave small hints without giving away the entire point, which allowed me to think over the problem and come to my own conclusion about the matter."*

SA	A	D	SD
139	178	39	7
37%	48%	11%	

SA + A = 85%

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
379	534	59	40
37%	53%	6%	

SA + A = 90%

6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course: *"In past labs, I had a difficult time relating what we learned in lab to real life situations. In writing research papers, it forced us to make connections between what we were learning in lab and its relevance to life." "I was able to get feedback not only from my instructor but from my fellow peers as well. . . . I was able to get two forms of feedback that would help me to become a better writer." "Though it was more difficult, I was more challenged to actually learn and communicate instead of just memorizing and regurgitating." "I believe that the writing element was key to the course, and held me accountable for learning the material, more so than the exams." "It was, dare I say . . . fun."*

SA	A	D	SD
103	170	80	13
28%	46%	22%	4%

SA + A = 74%

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
140	318	265	108
17%	38%	32%	13%

SA + A = 55%