

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Writing Intensive Program

Student Responses Fall 2014

"The draft and revision process has enabled me to be more critical of my writing and more aware of my strengths and weaknesses as a writer." "The comments on my drafts were always helpful to my subsequent revisions and more successful final drafts." "Writing seems like the best way to challenge yourself to understand the readings and also fosters better discussion." "I would not have gained such an appreciation of anthropology without learning how to write like an anthropologist." "The writing components solidified course concepts and helped me apply them to real world contexts." "The writing assignments made me come to class prepared. I always knew exactly what was going on."

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

| | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing. | SA | A | D | SD |
| <i>"Overall, the experience of writing throughout the course helped to not only strengthen my writing but my thought process as I learned."</i> | 120 | 288 | 43 | 11 |
| <i>"The multiple draft aspect of the large project allowed me to see the nuances involved with fine tuning my work." "All of the writing and reading of journals in this class has immensely improved my writing and critical reading skills." "This semester more than any other has challenged me to have more professional writing." "The writing portions of this lab were challenging but they helped me learn I believe. Katie was a tough grader on some of them which I didn't always appreciate, but it helped me to improve. I did not know much about writing research proposals or articles and I learned a lot about the style, format, and tone of these pieces of writing."</i> | 26% | 62% | 9% | |
| | SA + A = 88% | | | |
| | BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L | | | |
| | 152 | 349 | 62 | 14 |
| | 26% | 60% | 11% | |
| | SA + A = 86% | | | |
| 2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning of the subject matter of this course. | SA | A | D | SD |
| <i>"The research required for papers enhanced my knowledge of the subject." "This course forced me to put my thoughts together in a logical manner. I feel that this really strengthened my understanding of the material. This was very helpful come test time." "This was a great practice allowing me to contextualize my learning and understanding of my field and my own ideas for art education." "Knowing how to word our explanations in a clear manner helps with comprehending the content." "The writing assignments forced me to pay attention in lab and to be an active participant, which strengthened my understanding."</i> | 196 | 241 | 24 | 5 |
| | 42% | 52% | 5% | |
| | SA + A = 94% | | | |
| | BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L | | | |
| | 158 | 353 | 60 | 16 |
| | 27% | 60% | 10% | |
| | SA + A = 87% | | | |
| 3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course. | SA | A | D | SD |
| <i>"The writing assignments encouraged original thinking and academic inquiry on my part that supplemented class material." "The writing assignments forced me to read the material in more detail, and acted as an incentive to read and answer additional reading questions." "The writing assignments ensured that I stayed caught up and understood the course material." "The assignments required both critical reading and analysis of the readings, allowing me to be involved in every aspect." "The writing assignments require your active participation because without it, you won't be able to write an effective paper."</i> | 167 | 232 | 58 | 6 |
| | 36% | 50% | 12% | |
| | SA + A = 86% | | | |
| | BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L | | | |
| | 173 | 336 | 56 | 11 |
| | 30% | 58% | 10% | |
| | SA + A = 88% | | | |

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 now know what a good research paper looks like and I know how to cite sources. I also know how to find great sources." "Yes, this class taught me the difference between scientific writing and writing for courses such as English that require a bit more creativity. Science writing is more straight forward and explanatory in nature." "I had never read a peer reviewed scientific article before this class. I now know where to find these articles, how to cite them, and how to write about them."*

| SA | A | D | SD |
|------------|------------|-----------|----|
| 198 | 216 | 37 | 10 |
| 43% | 46% | 8% | |

SA + A = 89%

| BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|----|
| 208 | 348 | 51 | 13 |
| 34% | 56% | 16% | |

SA + A = 90%

5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective. *"Her notes were simple and effective, politely telling us our strong and weak points." "She gave me specific tips and pointed out particular strengths and weaknesses. That focused and specific criticism was worthwhile." "I wouldn't have been able to improve my writing or critical analyses without [the TA's coaching]." "She helped me with my structure and gave me better confidence with my paper and writing abilities." "She helped me to collect my ideas and to formulate plans for further drafts." "The comments were always direct and clear enough for me to understand what worked in the paper and what I needed to improve."*

| SA | A | D | SD |
|------------|------------|------------|----|
| 176 | 208 | 46 | 22 |
| 38% | 44% | 10% | |

SA + A = 82%

| BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|----|
| 257 | 290 | 35 | 18 |
| 43% | 48% | 6% | |

SA + A = 91%

6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course. *"I engaged more with the class and found I wanted to participate in discussions in and out of class more." "I feel more confident." "The writing element of this class strengthened and clarified my understanding of many topics covered." "I felt like I engaged with the subject matter more profoundly." "The writing element was beneficial because it allowed me to demonstrate my comprehension of the material." "We had lots of time to work on the papers, so they never felt shoehorned in or bothersome. They also helped solidify the information I learned, which was extremely helpful." "When I do the writing, I learn much more. I feel happy with that."*

| SA | A | D | SD |
|------------|------------|------------|----|
| 113 | 228 | 96 | 19 |
| 24% | 49% | 21% | |

SA + A = 73%

| BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 107 | 190 | 113 | 54 |
| 23% | 41% | 24% | 12% |

SA + A = 64%