

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences **Writing Intensive Program**  
**Student Responses Spring 2015**

---

*“Writing made me realize the extent to which statistics is as much about communication as it is about mathematics.” “Writing about the subject matter helped me to discuss the material in class with confidence.” “The writing assignments encouraged me to go back over my notes from class and read further into materials.” “The feedback was extremely helpful and brought up topics or perspectives I had not thought about myself.” “The TA did an incredible job of both praising our work as well as providing constructive criticism on ways to improve our writing.” “I started the semester having never before written in a scientific format. This class helped me learn the difference between writing a descriptive and flowery English paper versus having to present information scientifically.”*

---

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

<b>1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	
<i>“I feel much more qualified and comfortable with writing scientific papers now.” “I really appreciated the comments on my paper. I want to be the best writer I can so I love the feedback, both practical advice and suggestions.” “I didn’t realize the importance of citations and never wanted to use them, but they really do enhance the quality of a piece.”</i>	92	201	31	4	
	<b>28%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>9%</b>		
	<b>SA + A = 88%</b>				
<i>“The writing assignments helped me learn about the correct ways to write in the field of science. There is a big difference between writing an English essay and a lab report.” “This course did a truly fantastic job of explaining how to structure a lab report and how to translate those writing skills into a research paper or article similar to the ones found in real journals. I felt that the course worked us up to writing full-length reports with references and data instead of overwhelming us with that assignment up front.”</i>	BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	120	344	95	42
	<b>20%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>7%</b>	
	<b>SA + A = 77%</b>				
<b>2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning of the subject matter of this course.</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	
<i>“Explicitly explaining every detail of the work forced me to truly understand it. No faking possible.” “Having to look up references and read course material motivated me to keep up with learning the material.” “Writing everything in prose required a full understanding.” “By having to write what I’m doing, it forced me to really understand the material and what any results mean.” “At times, I didn’t completely understand the purpose of the lab completed in class, but when tasked with going home and writing about it, I was able to gain a better grasp on the subject.”</i>	124	184	18	6	
	<b>37%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>5%</b>		
	<b>SA + A = 92%</b>				
	BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	148	369	80	51
	<b>23%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	
	<b>SA + A = 80%</b>				
<b>3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course.</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	
<i>“I participated more in class discussions due to the writing.” “Staying on top of the writing assignments helped keep me immersed in the subject matter.” “They encouraged me to research current events, past events, and explore new ideas.” “This type of writing is different than English style writing for a literature class and this class helped me distinguish between the two.” “This class taught me how to write a scientific paper, as opposed to a general essay, which I have always written.” “This course was extremely helpful in teaching us how to write scientifically, with introductions, methods, results, and discussion sections as well as references to previous research. This course did a great job of working us up to more complex, involved writing instead of scaring us with it first.”</i>	112	163	49	8	
	<b>34%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>15%</b>		
	<b>SA + A = 83%</b>				
	BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	148	369	80	51
	<b>23%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>	
	<b>SA + A = 80%</b>				

**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).** *"We were taught how a scientific research article is written, and how it is NOT written. We also learned the differences in language and organization between a research proposal and research article."* *"Writing a research paper for history is much different from writing a proposal/formal lab report. Even writing an organic chemistry lab report is different from writing one for biology."*

SA	A	D	SD
141	146	34	5
42%	44%	10%	

**SA + A = 86%**

**5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective.** *"All the feedback helped me further improve and continue to develop my writing."* *"The TA was such a huge help when it came to her being available to answer questions or explain topics outside of class."* *"She pointed out good areas of my paper and noted certain areas where I needed to elaborate or provide more information."* *"She not only pointed out the things that I was doing wrong, she was always available to offer help in improving my writing, as well as quick to point out what I was doing right, which was very encouraging."* *"She really helped me understand the gravity that certain words hold, such as 'significant' (suggesting statistical value)."*

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	SA	A	D	SD
	182	386	68	31
	27%	58%	11%	5%

**SA + A = 85%**

**6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course.** *"I feel that having the writing element gave me something to work on and practice."* *"Writing to explain my thought process helped me to understand the material more."* *"I was able to test my knowledge in writing. Then I could work on what I didn't know."* *"Writing about the labs helped me to be more engaged and participate in the lab more."* *"While it did help, I don't like writing."* *"As any college student would feel: the less writing the easier/better the class."* *"Writing definitely helped me better understand the material and relevance of what we were doing and therefore gave me an increased satisfaction in the lab."*

SA	A	D	SD
122	154	40	12
37%	46%	12%	

**SA + A = 83%**

**6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course.** *"I feel that having the writing element gave me something to work on and practice."* *"Writing to explain my thought process helped me to understand the material more."* *"I was able to test my knowledge in writing. Then I could work on what I didn't know."* *"Writing about the labs helped me to be more engaged and participate in the lab more."* *"While it did help, I don't like writing."* *"As any college student would feel: the less writing the easier/better the class."* *"Writing definitely helped me better understand the material and relevance of what we were doing and therefore gave me an increased satisfaction in the lab."*

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	SA	A	D	SD
	252	328	58	58
	36%	47%	8%	8%

**SA + A = 83%**

**6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course.** *"I feel that having the writing element gave me something to work on and practice."* *"Writing to explain my thought process helped me to understand the material more."* *"I was able to test my knowledge in writing. Then I could work on what I didn't know."* *"Writing about the labs helped me to be more engaged and participate in the lab more."* *"While it did help, I don't like writing."* *"As any college student would feel: the less writing the easier/better the class."* *"Writing definitely helped me better understand the material and relevance of what we were doing and therefore gave me an increased satisfaction in the lab."*

SA	A	D	SD
71	158	79	19
21%	48	24	

**SA + A = 69%**

**6) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course.** *"I feel that having the writing element gave me something to work on and practice."* *"Writing to explain my thought process helped me to understand the material more."* *"I was able to test my knowledge in writing. Then I could work on what I didn't know."* *"Writing about the labs helped me to be more engaged and participate in the lab more."* *"While it did help, I don't like writing."* *"As any college student would feel: the less writing the easier/better the class."* *"Writing definitely helped me better understand the material and relevance of what we were doing and therefore gave me an increased satisfaction in the lab."*

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	SA	A	D	SD
	59	197	200	109
	10%	35%	35%	19%

**SA + A = 45%**