

Student Response Report · Spring 2021

"I truly feel like my writing has improved."

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

1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.

"My writing was strengthened not only because of the amount of writing we did but also because of the amount of support and review we had within the class itself." "I feel more comfortable with scientific articles and writing in a scientific manner." "Before this class, I was not sure how to 'write math,' but after this class I now understand how to put my math into words." "I learned how to write detailed arguments with examples." "Prior to this course I had no knowledge of scientific writing and how to go about forming it. I now know how to write a lab report and much more thanks to my Graduate Lab Assistant." "The course significantly increased my understanding of scientific writing in the research setting." "I now know how to write a scientific paper." "It strengthened my writing by giving me feedback on what I needed to fix."

SA	A	D	SD
56	90	17	4
34%	54%	10%	2%
SA + A = 88%			

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	SA	A	D	SD
197	358	67	25	
25%	46%	9%	3%	
SA + A = 71%				

2) The writing assignments enhanced my learning of the subject matter of this course.

"With the first paper I was able to grasp the broad subject that we were learning in class. Finding sources and connecting the music within the context helped me write a solidified paper." "Doing problem sets and synthesizing the information was extremely conducive to my learning." "Writing my final report gave me an idea of what it would be like to discuss future findings in my own research." "The writing assignments were very useful to understand the concepts of the course." "Writing research papers, book reviews, and reflections have taught me a lot of the patterns and themes we learned in the course, and helped us dive even deeper to utilize this information and analyze it." "Working through the problem sets in prose encouraged me to fully think through every option, and helped me to expand my thought process." "Each different assignment further expanded my knowledge of scientific writing and helped me progress through the lab during the semester."

SA	A	D	SD
84	64	15	4
50%	38%	9%	2%
SA + A = 88%			

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	SA	A	D	SD
205	325	52	44	
26%	42%	7%	6%	
SA + A = 68%				

3) The writing assignments encouraged me to be actively involved in the course.

"These writing assignments allowed me to really focus and actively engage in the course and what we were learning." "The writing assignments helped make connections from the text to real world situations and recognize relationships across generations." "Through learning about the topic in class, I was able to incorporate what I learned in my writing." "I felt that I had more understanding and could contribute to class discussion." "Talking about math is a more difficult task than most students have dealt with up to this point; being able to explain (and defend) your mathematical reasoning is a challenging skill to develop, and so showing up to class with the pre-class assignments done helped me stay focused and understand the material." "A lot of the writing was geared towards taking in information and then reflecting it back in an informative way. To do the assignments well, I needed to be actively engaged in the labs and understand the information I would later have to write about."

SA	A	D	SD
77	68	16	6
46%	41%	10%	4%
SA + A = 87%			

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	SA	A	D	SD
247	364	41	24	
32%	46%	5%	3%	
SA + A = 78%				

4) The writing assignments helped me to understand the ways of writing that are particular to this subject (for example ways of writing in the sciences, the social sciences, or the humanities).

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Writing Intensive Program

"I learned how to write academically about music." "Proof-writing has a very specific structure, and this course introduced me to it." "It helped me understand different ways to write art history-related subjects such as formal analysis and critical reception." "There is a particular way of analyzing linguistic data, and I now feel more comfortable doing so." "This class was definitely helpful for me in understanding how writing for linguistics works, and I feel more confident in my ability to write in the discipline." "Writing research papers, book reviews, and reflections have taught me a lot about the structures and styles of sociology papers. They helped me learn this new form of writing and all the assignments we had helped us adapt to this new and important style." "The writing assignments taught me specific aspects that were unique in scientific writing such as the different parts of the scientific method."

SA	A	D	SD
90	64	10	3
54%	38%	6%	2%
SA + A = 92%			

SA + A = 80%

5) The coaching I received from the teaching assistant was effective.

"The TA offered extremely helpful advice on my writing by not only giving notes on mechanics and language, but also ways to expand my writing and make deeper connections to strengthen my argument." "I received a lot of helpful advice!" "I always received detailed feedback that helped me better understand the ways in which I needed to improve." "The coaching I received from both the professor and the TA was extremely beneficial. They really wanted us to succeed and understand the content that we were learning. The guidance and commitment to the students really enhanced my desire to ask for help, which in turn benefitted my writing and assignments." "The feedback I got from my TA was very personalized and amazing." "The GLA gave me very helpful feedback on assignments that allowed me to improve my writing over time."

SA	A	D	SD
60	70	28	9
36%	42%	17%	5%
SA + A = 78%			

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
298	267	54	45
38%	34%	7%	6%
SA + A = 72%			

6) The writing I did in this class built on my prior writing experiences, skills, and knowledge.

"I got to expand what I knew about writing from other classes." "I had never done extensive writing in math before this class, and I built on my prior experiences in unique ways." "This class built on proofs I wrote in CSCI 2610 and 2670 a lot." "I did have to use prior knowledge and build on that." "The writing I did in this class helped me build on my prior knowledge of writing from the English course I took last semester." "...the many written assignments gave me an opportunity to practice [my] prior knowledge." "I had previous experience in writing related to the social sciences, but this class served as a more in-depth look into this kind of writing, allowing me to polish my skills more."

SA	A	D	SD
69	71	13	4
44%	45%	8%	3%
SA + A = 89%			

7) The writing I did in this class has prepared me for future writing experiences/assignments/work.

"All my future writings will benefit from the practice for this class." "Yes. The writing in this course prepared me for future writing experiences in math." "The writing assignments provided effective practice for different areas of writing, so this will help me in the future when writing about art." "Not only am I more comfortable producing clear academic writing, but I've also learned to write more quickly and generally require less time for written assignments." "This class has taught and trained me in skills that I will continue using for years to come." "It provided valuable experience in real report writing." "This class instructed me on professional writing techniques that will be useful for the future."

SA	A	D	SD
69	74	9	5
44%	47%	6%	3%
SA + A = 91%			

8) The writing element of this class increased my satisfaction with the overall course.

"I had a sense of pride and accomplishment having successfully analyzed a scientist's work, which previously had been something daunting." "The writing assignments motivated me to be more attentive during lab, which increased my level of interest with the content." "...it made this course complete." "The writing element helped me grow as a writer throughout this course this semester, and without the writing aspect I don't think I would have learned or retained as much information from this class as I have." "I liked the writing element because it helped me to organize my thoughts and findings pertaining to the lab." "I really loved that the course wasn't completely "score"-based: it didn't reduce my efforts as a student to simple letter grades, scores, etc even though my writing wasn't perfect. Instead, the feedback that I got helped to improve my writing, increased my confidence, and allowed me to focus on the material over my grade in the course. All courses should be designed more in this way - school is to help students learn, not to punish them for lack of knowledge!"