

Student Response Report · Fall 2021

“The more I write, the more comfortable I am writing on this subject and in general, which makes me a better writer.”

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

1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.

<i>“I feel that this course has made my writing more complex and strong.” “I was able to produce better writing in less time than when I started.” “This is the most feedback on my writing I have ever gotten.” “This was my first time writing a research paper, now I know how.” “Being required to write something every week (but only something small every week) improved my writing without posing too much stress on my schedule.” “This class helped me to understand the process of a synthetic literature review.” “The more I write, the more comfortable I am writing on this subject and in general, which makes me a better writer.” “I feel more comfortable writing papers in this class now and for what criteria are looked for.” “The TA gave us many opportunities to help improve our writings and to give us practice to make us better writers.” “This class got me through my fear of writing.”</i>	SA	A	D	SD
	95	194	22	4
	30%	61%	7%	1%
	SA + A = 91%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	225	297	42	24
	38%	51%	7%	4%
	SA + A = 89%			

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

<i>“Without a doubt I got a better understanding of the readings because of the homework writing assignments.” “I wrote my favorite paper in this class.” “Writing helps me realize whether or not I truly understand the material. Working on the writing assignments encouraged me to pick apart the readings.” “I had to focus on really learning so that I could contribute my own ideas.” “Writing is one way that I learn something very solidly for any subject. Turning concepts into my own observations and opinions ensures that I understand the idea/readings.” “These assignments allowed me to make connections between the discussions we had in class and research for my essays.” “The writing assignments had a specific purpose and did not feel like busy work. They helped me recognize the broader scope of this class, rather than just confining the subject matter to each topic and this course alone.”</i>	SA	A	D	SD
	162	155	29	2
	46%	44%	8%	1%
	SA + A = 91%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	225	300	38	28
	38%	51%	7%	5%
	SA + A = 89%			

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

<i>“The writing assignments made me more interested in what I was doing and made me want to engage more.” “I was more engaged with the course and with the content, specifically.” “By writing in every unit I was able to keep track of my evolving thoughts on these topics.” “The writing assignments made me more familiar with the concepts covered and I could contribute to class discussions more.” “The spaced out timeline of the essay encouraged us to stay involved with it throughout the semester.” “The writing assignments encouraged me to speak in class and add my inputs on certain controversial issues.” “They made me more active in the course in the sense that in having to think more analytically about the readings, I read with more care. In reading with more care, I came up with more questions which then spurred greater participation.”</i>	SA	A	D	SD
	182	153	41	6
	48%	40%	11%	2%
	SA + A = 88%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L	257	299	27	24
	44%	51%	5%	4%
	SA + A = 95%			

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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 feel strong and confident writing in this field." "This course taught me aspects of scientific writing that I was unaware of." "I had to adjust my writing style to the area of math education and I think practicing helped me to develop a voice and language to explain the subject." "It helped me see how historians write about commodities, drugs, addiction, etc. in a historical way. It was interesting reading and writing about the intersection of history and science." "It explained the writing process, as well as what is expected when writing is to be reviewed." "Writing a scientific paper is much different than writing an English paper, and I think this course has helped to reinforce my understanding of the different expectations of each" "Scientific writing is often times not specifically taught to students, but this course really made an effort to teach students the ways to effectively communicate thoughts and experiments in a formal setting."

SA	A	D	SD
174	143	30	3
49%	40%	9%	0.9%
SA + A = 90%			

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
290	274	24	21
49%	47%	4%	4%
SA + A = 96%			

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

"The TA went above and beyond to help students, giving extremely detailed and useful feedback to any student who asked." "The TA did an excellent job grading everything and there was nothing I would ask them to do differently. Their feedback was extremely helpful." "Everything said was always positive and encouraging, which encouraged me to think a lot more." "The TA gave feedback on every essay, which really improved my writing." "The feedback I received was always very helpful and easy to learn from." "My TA helped me to think more about how my writing is structured." "My TA was very hands-on and effective in coaching me in my writing." "My TA was extremely helpful. She spent so much of her time preparing helpful writing workshops and detailed explanations about the class and its assignments. The writing workshop was very well prepared and provided helpful tips for me that helped me write my essay assignments in a more constructive way."

SA	A	D	SD
176	149	16	5
50%	42%	5%	1%
SA + A = 92%			

BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
320	222	26	26
54%	38%	4%	4%
SA + A = 92%			

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

"This course taught me to be confident in my own ideas." "This course enhanced my ability to synthesize." "I had to use what I knew, re-learn what I forgot, and learn new skills for my writing." "I was able to create more succinct analysis." "I have improved from my previous research papers." "It furthered my abilities as a researcher and a writer." "I had written basic papers and essays before, but this class expanded what I knew about writing previously." "I was able to see my development throughout the semester." "I love writing and always tend to write well but each essay and requirements are different and make me become a stronger writer with every essay."

SA	A	D	SD
178	160	13	3
50%	45%	4%	0.9%
SA + A = 95%			

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

"The writing I did in this class prepared me amazingly." "The writing in this class taught me how to be more concise and professional." "The final essay increased my writing confidence." "I feel more confident about approaching research paper assignments in the future." "I feel like my papers in the future will be much better now that I've taken this class." "I now know how to write and structure a college level research paper." "There is no question this class made me a more diligent and thoughtful writer and that it will continue to elevate my writing." "Writing for me is not necessarily a one stage process anymore. I found out how to effectively write out an outline/brainstrom to create a clean, polished draft of my essays."

SA	A	D	SD
160	168	20	4
45%	48%	6%	1%
SA + A = 93%			

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

“Yes! I enjoyed this course format so much! I felt I had the chance to improve myself rather than pressuring myself to do well on a test. It made me want to do well in every aspect of the course.” “I felt a sense of accomplishment when I turned in a paper applying my own creative ideas to a project. This motivated me to do my best and absorb as much as possible.” “It felt like I got to connect personally with the material and understand it fully to complete the paper associated with the course.” “I think the best aspect of the writing element was the fact that it drastically increased my understanding of the text I was writing about.” “The writing element encouraged me to be more reflective on the arguments I was presented with. It encouraged critical thinking, which made me enjoy the course more.” “I feel well prepared for academic writing in my field.” “I believe the writing workload was doable and strengthened knowledge.” “The writing element pushed me to be more involved.” “I appreciated both the low-stakes weekly writing assignments and the mid-term and final essays. It was manageable yet stimulating.”

“I grew as a student and a writer as a result of the assignments in this class.”