

Student Response Report · Spring 2023

"It helped me realize that I am capable of writing."

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

1) My experience in this course strengthened my writing.

"Going through multiple versions like a real journal was helpful." "I strongly feel I am a better writer as a result of this class." "Writing a paper in multiple stages perfected my ability to organize my thoughts." "I feel like this is the first time I've gotten good step-by-step instructions in writing." "It helped me strengthen my writing and avoid filler words." "Periodically turning in parts of the longer paper really helped me learn how to write." "I'm a STEM major, so I haven't had courses with much writing. This class helped me get back to it." "In the beginning of the semester, my writing was very unorganized. At the end, it's much clearer."

SA	A	D	SD
188	255	29	5
39%	53%	6%	1%
SA + A = 92%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108I			
279	396	46	34
31%	44%	5%	4%
SA + A = 75%			

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

"It allowed me to see different sides of the subject matter I wouldn't get in a 'normal' class." "It helped me connect the topics I learned in the course." "As I wrote my papers and essays, I found that I understood the material more." "Writing about examples in response papers helped reinforces topics discussed in lecture." "The writing made me think more critically about the sources and material." "As my proof writing techniques improved, so did my knowledge of the math." "Reflections helped me dive deeper into topics."

SA	A	D	SD
220	214	38	5
46%	45%	8%	1%
SA + A = 91%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108I			
301	402	46	26
33%	48%	5%	3%
SA + A = 81%			

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

"I felt more involved in discussions because of the writing." "Writing assignments made me into an active learner of the content of this course." "The writing assignments required a level of understanding that challenged me." "I was able to show what I learned in class through writing." "This is the best attendance I've had for a course in my three-year college career." "Without the writing, I might not have been engaged." "It helped me digest topics I otherwise would not have been interested in." "Our final paper was divided into parts, so that kept me engaged all semester."

SA	A	D	SD
225	200	45	7
47%	42%	9%	1%
SA + A = 89%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108I			
336	404	30	22
37%	48%	3%	2%
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).

*"We got to focus on different writing styles. It was very beneficial."
"Writing my thesis has taught me how to analyze and write as a historian."
"Writing a research paper like this gave me a new understanding of the field."
"The examples and feedback helped me develop my style in this subject."
"The writing helped me write good proofs for math."
"My writing has shifted from the rigid 5=paragraph essay to a more fluid style that I can take with my to other disciplines too."
"The specific format was new to me, but learning it helped me understand the research in the field more."
"I learned the importance of being specific and naming the things I want to call attention to."*

SA	A	D	SD
217	225	30	5
45%	47%	6%	1%
SA + A = 92%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
354	371	25	21
39%	41%	3%	2%
SA + A = 80%			

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

*"He was a great TA to have. He was always willing to help and often worked with others' schedules."
"Feedback was helpful and provided me with a way forward."
"They helped me create more concise thoughts."
"The help I received helped me better understand how to write."
"The workshops were extremely helpful."
"Their notes gave me a clear idea of my strengths as well as what needed improvement."
"They helped me write fewer, but higher quality words."
"The coaching helped clear up all of my doubts."
"The rough draft was low stakes, so I wasn't afraid of making mistakes."
"His notes definitely helped. I feel more confident in my writing now."
"I always got very detailed and effective feedback that helped my writing be the best it could be."
"Every time I asked for help, I was helped to come to the solution myself."*

SA	A	D	SD
257	85	28	7
54%	40%	6%	1%
SA + A = 94%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
415	302	26	31
46%	34%	3%	4%
SA + A = 80%			

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

*"I have prior experience with scientific writing, but often fall short or leave out details. This course made me more comfortable elaborating."
"I've learned better ways to write long papers, and how to cite them."
"It helped me understand how to cite and write concisely."
"I knew basic concepts, but this built my scientific writing skills."
"While I entered with some prior knowledge, this course both served as a refresher and strengthened my writing!"
"Yes, I knew how to write a standard essay, but now my writing is more intentional."*

SA	A	D	SD
254	206	16	1
53%	43%	3%	<1%
SA + A = 96%			
BIOL 1103L/1104L/1107L/1108L			
228	259	109	65
25%	30%	12%	7%
SA + A = 55%			

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

"I feel really comfortable writing both long research essays and media features." "It helped me with formatting APA style papers I'll need to write later." "I feel more prepared to write future research papers." "I'm a more efficient thinker and editor now." "I feel more prepared for my senior thesis." "This was my first experience with academic writing." "I can now write more concisely, faster, and better." "Yes, even though I'm going into science, ethnography has helped me prepare!" "This course helped me to formalize my writing." "I feel confident creating analysis reports for clients of all backgrounds now."

SA	A	D	SD
251	201	20	5
53%	42%	4%	1%
SA + A = 95%			

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

"I feel like the writing really helped solidify my knowledge in the subject. The freedom to choose a topic that mattered to me was great." "It helped me realize that I am capable of writing and with scientific writing styles." "I was able to develop my professional writing skills and prepare for my future career." "It increased my satisfaction with the course. The writing challenged me and drove me to engage." "I feel much more confident in my writing skills after this course. I have learned strategies to find research and to write efficient but informative papers." "Even though it was a lot of work, I didn't mind it because I felt like I was learning and improving!" "I would definitely agree with this. The writing assignments kept me engaged and tested my knowledge and understanding. I almost wish we had had one or two more."