

Writing Fellows APA Citation Assessment

Will students who work with Writing Fellows be able to apply discipline-appropriate style guide feedback to their own writing drafts after a round of Fellowing?

Learning Outcome

- Students who participate in the University Center for Writing-based Learning's programs and activities will revise a work in progress based on feedback.

Methodology

- A class was selected from Winter 2019 LSP courses that had requested Writing Fellows.
- Data were collected from 4 drafts of 2 assignments which were originally submitted via D2L.
- In total, 46 papers were collected and analyzed including 12 pre-Fellowing and 12 post-Fellowing papers for assignment 1 and 11 pre-Fellowing and 11 post-Fellowing papers for assignment 2.
- Data were analyzed to determine the frequency and types of errors present in the drafts before and after meeting with the Writing Fellows.

Demographics

- Of the 16 students enrolled in the LSP 112 class only 12 students (75%) submitted drafts.
- No demographic information about the students was collected.

Key Findings

- The mean percent of correct APA citations in the pre-Fellowing assignment 1 first drafts increased by 14.6% in the second drafts, and the mean Error Score decreased by 29%.
- On average students did better on Assignment 2 than on the first draft of Assignment 1, showing transferable skills from Assignment 1 to Assignment 2.
- Superfluous information included in in-text citations suggest that students struggled with identifying information necessary for APA in-text citations.

Plan of Action

- At the start of Fall 2019, the Writing Fellow coordinator will share findings from the assessment project with the Head Writing Fellows tutors.
- After cohorts have been assigned for Fall 2019, the coordinator and Heads who are point people for each of the cohorts will translate the findings into practice for the individual fellows.
- During Week 1 and 2 of Winter 2020, the Head Writing Fellows tutors will conduct a mandatory ongoing education in-service for new Writing Fellows based on these findings.

