

PROJECT GOAL:

To assess student attainment of two current ASU General Education goals

- **Communicating effectively.** Students should be able to communicate effectively and correctly, in writing and in speech, for a variety of purposes, using appropriate forms of discourse, organizational strategies, and vocabulary.
- **Thinking critically.** Students should develop the skills necessary to digest, assimilate, and evaluate critically what they read, see and hear. They should employ rational argument and deduction routinely in their own work.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

(Question to be answered) The achievement of the above mentioned goal will allow the ASU community to make curricular and other academic decisions that enhance student learning in writing skills acquisition and the development of critical thinking skills.

PROJECT STRATEGY:

- 1) The Assessment Academy Team will develop two rubrics for use in evaluating the writing and critical thinking levels of ASU students.
- 2) Faculty from both lower and upper division courses will be solicited to participate in this project by way of communication with the chair of each academic department.
- 3) Faculty will submit student writing samples obtained from regular curricular assignments including, but not limited to, research papers, critiques, lab assignments, and essays.
 - a. Assignment submissions must be completed electronically and must include the student's ASU ID number, the course name, and course number.
 - b. The assignment should be 500-1500 words in length.
 - c. Assessment submissions will be forwarded by e-mail to Assessment Services by the participating faculty member.
- 4) Assessment Services will strip all identifying information from the assessment submissions. Each student submission will be assigned a corresponding assessment project identification number so that a blind review of each submission can be conducted without student ID numbers or course identification information present. Submissions will be placed in electronic folders for use by a team of assessment raters.
- 5) A team of raters will be assembled and trained in the application of the rubrics to the writing samples. Faculty members from various departments will be employed as assessment raters for this project. A series of training sessions will be conducted in order to facilitate both intra- and inter-rater reliability.
- 6) Assessment Services will provide the compilation of scores and database housing for all project results.

PROJECT ASSESSMENT DATA USE:

Collected data will be compiled and analyzed by the Assessment Services Office. Project data analysis will be delivered to the Assessment Academy Team, the Committee on Student Learning, the General Education Committee, and Academic Affairs Officials.

PROJECT COST:

Direct Costs:

1. Assessment raters
2. Faculty participant recognition items

Indirect Costs:

1. Faculty Resources
2. Assessment Services personnel resources (time on task)
3. Assessment Services operational budget considerations (related data collection & analysis expenses, rating expenses)

PROJECT REQUIRED RESOURCES:

1. Faculty commitment
2. Student participation
3. Rater training
4. Rater salaries
5. Assessment services