

Writing Assessment Project FAQs

Writing and communication skills are an important part of students' undergraduate core competencies. We have a unique opportunity to facilitate a university-wide project to provide evidence of student writing abilities.

What kind of papers are desired?

- Papers submitted should be from upper-division, capstone, or upper-division writing intensive (W) courses.
- Ideally papers will be typed, approximately 1000+ words of text, and appropriate for a more general academic audience. Some examples might include: term projects or papers, essays, research papers, lab reports, etc.
- PowerPoint presentations, in-class writing, portfolios and lengthy binders will not work for this project.
- Papers should be unmarked and not graded.

What am I expected to collect and turn in to the Office of Institutional Assessment (OIA)?

- We need a class set of papers for one of your writing assignments; for example, if there are 40 students in your class completing a research paper, please turn in all 40 papers.
- We also need the assignment prompt.

How can papers be submitted to OIA?

- Professors can collect two copies of the paper from students and give the extra copy to our office. OIA can come pick these up, or they can be sent via campus mail.
- Our office can make copies of the paper set before grading. Again, we would be happy to come pick up the paper set for copying.
- Professors can collect papers electronically from students and then send them to OIA (via email to [Dr. Yan Zhang](#), USB drive, Blackboard, turnitin.com etc.).

When can I submit my papers to OIA?

- Any time during the Fall 2009 semester.

What happens to the student names and other identifiable information on the papers?

- All papers received will be "cleaned" of any identifiable information for students and faculty. After papers are "cleaned" they will be assigned a coded number.

How will the samples collected be evaluated?

- A stratified random sample will be taken of all papers submitted and faculty teams will apply a general writing rubric to the papers.

What kind of results will be shared?

- You will receive feedback in the form of an aggregated final report. Data from your class will be included only in the aggregate. This information should be available sometime in the summer of 2010.