COMPOSITION PROGRAM

THE LEADERS

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ASSESSMENT

The Composition program carries out extensive assessment in each course and across the program. One example of faculty members’ effective efforts is their use of an end-of-semester reflective essay to assess student growth and achievement across course learning outcomes in WSU’s first-year writing course, ENG 1020. To measure student achievement across the course learning outcome dealing with reflection, a group of 10 instructors gathered at the beginning of the winter 2016 semester to read and score 297 end-of-semester reflective essays collected at the end of fall 2015 using a six-point scaled rubric. They have carried out this assessment activity in previous years, studying student achievement across other course learning outcomes and other courses in the general education composition sequence.

IMPACT

Based on their findings, the Composition Assessment Committee, working together with the Composition Curriculum Committee, is supporting more explicit foregrounding of evaluative reflection in the course design, and has sponsored teaching workshops to support instructor feedback strategies on students’ reflective writing assigned throughout the semester.