



Title

Savannah, GA

International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference

June 8, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Family, Home and Social Sciences

- Desire to improve Writing
- Dean David Magleby



Family, Home and Social Sciences

- Creation of FTE position – FHSS College Writing Specialist 2006
- Two areas of concern:
 - Disciplinary Writing courses
 - Social Science Writing Lab



Disciplinary Writing Courses

- BYU requires a freshman writing course and a course for juniors/seniors
- In the past, the English Department taught most of the required writing courses



History & Political Science

- Already implemented a two-course sequence to fulfill the university-required advanced writing course
 - A 200 level course for those beginning the major
 - A capstone for graduating seniors
- All courses taught by faculty in the major



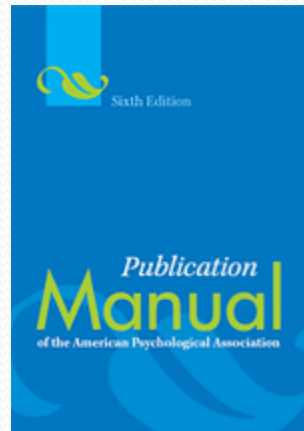
Psychology

- 1,000 students
- Not interested in the two-course model used by history and political science
- Desired an Introduction to Writing in Psychology course to be completed in a series with statistics, research design, and psychological testing



Psychology

- The course is created for sophomores instead of juniors/seniors
- No Capstone
- Course created by College Writing Specialist



Psychology Instructors

- Only 1 professor is currently willing to teach the new course
- Two faculty (each with PhD) with three-year appointments teach the course
- One adjunct instructor has a Masters in School of Family Life (no PhD)
- One instructor has a PhD in Instructional Psychology & Technology (Writing Specialist)

Anthropology

- Created by faculty in the department
- Taught by two faculty (with PhD)
- Taken the last semester of senior year



Sociology

- Sociology is in the process of getting approval for the advanced writing course
- Two semesters, taken back-to-back
- Content-intensive
- Two faculty so far are willing to teach the course

Mission:

The American Sociological Association (ASA) is a non-profit membership association dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good.



Successes

- The Writing in the Discipline courses have been approved by General Education, who oversees them
- Students are taking the advanced writing course earlier in their undergraduate years so the course can benefit them sooner
- Students and faculty are supported by the College Writing Lab

Questions That Have Arisen

Who should decide whether a disciplinary writing course is the best option for students?

- School of Family Life, Economics, & Geography are currently not interested in creating or teaching their own advanced writing course
- Will continue to take advanced writing in the English Department

Questions That Have Arisen

Who should create the disciplinary writing course?

- History, Sociology, Anthropology, & Political Science created their own course
- Psychology course was created by the Writing Specialist

Questions That Have Arisen

Who decides what should be in the disciplinary writing course?

- Psychology faculty were not interested in creating their course
- Now learning outcomes have been assigned to the course by a committee chair which include genres that are not actually taught by the instructors

Questions That Have Arisen

Who should teach the disciplinary writing course?

- Experts in the discipline?
- Experts in writing?
- Adjunct faculty?
- Graduate students?
- English majors?

When should a disciplinary writing course be taken?

- At the beginning of the major?
- After the introduction to the major?
- Near the end of the major?
- The final course? (Capstone)

Questions That Have Arisen

Who should oversee the disciplinary writing courses?

- Who makes certain that the courses are updated and relevant?
- Who correlates the courses with other sections of the same course?
- Who correlates the courses with other courses?
- Who decides if training is necessary? (Teaching students how to write? Writing in the discipline?)

Questions That Have Arisen

Who should make certain that other faculty are aware of the disciplinary writing courses and their content?

- Faculty could utilize the training students have already received in writing if the faculty knew what was being taught in the advanced writing courses

How do we create bridges with other relevant faculty?

Questions That Have Arisen

How can these courses be sustained?

- What college and university support would be needed?