

Bowdoin College

Survey of Students Who Took First-Year Seminars

(PREFERRED_NAME), SU Box (SU_BOX)-- Our records show that you took a first-year seminar last semester (fall 2003). We are doing a study of our first-year seminar program and would appreciate it if you would answer the following questions. Our records show that you took (CRSTITLE). Please answer the questions below as they pertain to this class.

1. Complete the following sentence by choosing the best option: Compared to my initial expectations, the amount of writing (e.g., papers, essays, reports, etc.) required for this class was...
 - much less than I expected.
 - a bit less than I expected.
 - about what I expected.
 - a bit more than I expected.
 - much more than I expected.

2. Averaging over the semester, about how many hours did you spend on this class each week? Do NOT count hours spent in class.
 - fewer than 5 hours
 - between 5 and 9 hours
 - between 10 and 14 hours
 - between 15 and 19 hours
 - 20 hours or more

3. How much writing did you do for this class?
 - How many individual written assignments (papers, essays, reports, etc.) did you complete for this class? _____
 - If you added the number of pages of each assignment, about how many total pages did you write for this class? _____
 - How many individual written assignments did you rewrite or revise after an initial review by the instructor? _____

4. Improvement of my writing was...
 - not one of my goals for this class.
 - one of my less important goals for this class.
 - one of my more important goals for this class.
 - my most important goal for this class.

5. To what extent did the instructor encourage class discussion?
 - not at all
 - rarely
 - occasionally
 - frequently

6. To what extent was plagiarism or academic honesty addressed in class?
 - not at all
 - somewhat
 - thoroughly

7. Below are some of the possible areas covered in a first-year seminar. Based on your experience in the class, please circle the number that best characterizes the degree of importance placed on each area by your instructor. To determine the degree of importance consider the nature of your assignments, the comments or marks put on your papers by your instructor, as well as the amount of attention given to these areas in class.

	of great importance in this class	of some importance in this class	of little importance in this class	of no importance in this class
learning of content or subject matter	4	3	2	1
ability to read critically	4	3	2	1
ability to write well	4	3	2	1
ability to think analytically	4	3	2	1
ability to present an argument	4	3	2	1
ability to speak well and make oral presentations	4	3	2	1
ability to do research	4	3	2	1
ability to evaluate source materials	4	3	2	1
ability to use correct grammar and punctuation	4	3	2	1
ability to structure sentences correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to structure paragraphs correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to structure or organize an entire paper correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to share ideas in class discussions	4	3	2	1

- Were there other important areas covered in this class that are not listed above? If so, please describe them.

8. At any time in the semester did you have a meeting with your instructor outside of class during which you worked on your writing?

___ yes ___ no

If yes, how many meetings did you have with your instructor during which you worked on writing? _____

About how many minutes in total did these meetings occupy? _____

9. To what degree do you feel you improved in the following areas while taking this class?

	I improved a lot	I improved some	I improved a little	I did not improve at all
ability to read critically	4	3	2	1
ability to write well	4	3	2	1
ability to think analytically	4	3	2	1
ability to present an argument	4	3	2	1
ability to speak well and make oral presentations	4	3	2	1
ability to do research	4	3	2	1
ability to evaluate source materials	4	3	2	1
ability to use correct grammar and punctuation	4	3	2	1
ability to structure sentences correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to structure paragraphs correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to structure or organize an entire paper correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to share ideas in class discussions	4	3	2	1

- Are there other ways in which you improved that are not listed above? If so, please describe them.
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10. To what degree do you feel you need further development in the following areas?

	I need a lot of development in this area	I need some development in this area	I need a little development in this area	I'm satisfied with my ability in this area
ability to read critically	4	3	2	1
ability to write well	4	3	2	1
ability to think analytically	4	3	2	1
ability to present an argument	4	3	2	1
ability to speak well and make oral presentations	4	3	2	1
ability to do research	4	3	2	1
ability to evaluate source materials	4	3	2	1
ability to use correct grammar and punctuation	4	3	2	1
ability to structure sentences correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to structure paragraphs correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to structure or organize an entire paper correctly	4	3	2	1
ability to share ideas in class discussions	4	3	2	1

- Are there other areas in which you feel you need development that are not listed above? If so, please describe them.
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11. How confident are you in your ability to perform well in future classes that require significant writing?

___ not at all confident

___ a bit confident

___ somewhat confident

___ very confident

12. If you feel that you improved your writing while taking this class, please describe the specific things that were done that you found to be most helpful.
