

Writing and Rhetoric I & Stretch Assessment Plan AY17-18

Rationale for Assessing Writing and Rhetoric I and Stretch

The PWR Program Review Self-study, under “Critical Questions,” includes, “Are the structure, curricula, and pedagogy in Writing and Rhetoric I Stretch (A & B) meeting the needs of Columbia College students who come to college less prepared than their peers for college-level work? What might be the best methods for assessing the efficacy of this sequence of courses?”

Since Writing and Rhetoric I and Writing and Rhetoric I Stretch (A & B) are both intended to adequately prepare students for success in Writing and Rhetoric II, the proposed assessment seeks to measure and compare student writing near the end of Stretch B and Writing and Rhetoric I to determine if the newly implemented Stretch program is helping students achieve appropriate standards.

Method

Collecting Writing Samples

At least 50 writing samples from Stretch B will be assessed, with scores compared with at least 50 writing samples from WRI. WRI samples will be collected near the end of FA17, and Stretch samples will be collected near the end of SP18. Participating sections will be chosen before the semester begins so that instructors can schedule and plan appropriately.

To generate writing samples, instructors from each selected section will administer an in-class writing near the end of the semester. The prompt, which will be the same for all sections across both courses, will be to the effect of “Use the following 10 key concepts to analyze the following website” or short article or other pre-chosen text.

Though the in-class writing does not need to be heavily weighted, faculty should determine a way to have the writing count towards students’ course grades as incentive.

Assessing Writing Samples

Participating faculty from WRI and Stretch, along with Matt and Tyler, will develop an assessment rubric based on the course outcomes. The writing samples will be scored (likely on a scale of 1 to 5 for each rubric criterion) by a panel of faculty selected by Matt. Norming sessions will be held with the panelists.

Data will be sent to Tyler, who will compile all information into the AY17-18 Annual Assessment Report.

Assigned Duties and Potential Timeline

Select Sections from which to Collect Writing Samples- Matt and/or Ken

- Complete for WRI by 8/1/17

- Complete for Stretch B by 11/1/17

Create Writing Prompt-Matt? along with Tyler?

- Complete by 8/1/18

Create Assessment Rubrics- Matt? along with Tyler?

- Complete for WRI by 8/1/18
- Complete for Stretch B by 11/1/17

Select and Contact Panel of Reviewers – Matt

- Complete by 5/1/18

Lead Norming Session- Neil and/or Tyler

- Complete by 5/15/18

Score Writing Samples, TBD Faculty, along with Tyler and Neil?

- Complete by 6/1/18

Compile Data and Write Report- Tyler

- Complete by 7/1/18