



# Oregon State University Writing Intensive Curriculum

## College of Science ~ Writing Profile

*College of Science WIC classes require an average of 7,100 words (28+ pages) of writing per student, including drafts, final papers, and informal assignments. Requirements for individual courses range from 5,000 to 20,000 + words.*

### Informal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Directed freewrites  
“Students are asked to jot down lists and ideas that are relevant to some aspect of the presentation ... these assignments are collected and returned with comments and additions.” (GEO 427)
- ◆ Freewrites to generate class discussion
- ◆ Daily responses to homework or reading
- ◆ Lab observations  
“Students are required to write 1-5 pages in a scientific lab notebook while they are doing chemistry in class.” (CH 463)
- ◆ Observation log
- ◆ Outlines of papers or projects
- ◆ Proposal
- ◆ Progress report
- ◆ Reaction statements to presentations
- ◆ Journal  
“Entries will reflect your thoughts, ideas, and questions on what you see, here, and read... reflect, try out new ideas, express curiosity, communicate feelings about some topic, or pick up on some aspect of class discussion that you agreed with or disagreed with.” (BI 333)
- ◆ Letter

### Feedback to Students on their Writing

- ◆ Team project with member feedback
- ◆ GTA/TA/Research assistant response
- ◆ Peer review
- ◆ Instructor’s written response (with or without a grade)
- ◆ Reflective self-assessment essay
- ◆ Writing Center consultations

### WIC classes reviewed by the Baccalaureate Core Committee

**BB 493**  
Biochemistry Lab

**BI 333**  
Understanding  
Environmental Projects

**BI 371**  
Ecological Methods

**BI/BOT 489**  
Analysis of  
Environmental Issues

**CH 463**  
Experimental Chemistry

**GEO 427**  
Volcanology

**GEO 462**  
Geosciences Field Methodology

**MTH 333**  
Fundamental Concepts  
of Topology

**MTH 338**  
Non-Euclidean Geometry

**PH 401, 403**  
Research and Thesis

**Z 414**  
Scientific Communication  
For Biologists

### Formal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Journal
- ◆ Collaborative Project  
“Students work in teams of 5-7 authors whose individual papers are used to create a team report.” (BI/BOT 489)
- ◆ Formal abstract
- ◆ Lab report
- ◆ Literature review  
“A major part of this assignment is to locate, read and understand published scientific articles and to write in one’s own words a suitable procedure synthesizing the assigned compound, complete with proper references.” (CH 463)
- ◆ Research paper/project/report  
“Students are asked to read research papers, report on results and fill in details. This writing is equivalent to the writing done in survey articles by professionals in the field.” (MTH 333)
- ◆ Technical report
- ◆ Thesis
- ◆ Portfolio

### Writing as a Process

- ◆ Online Departmental Writing Guide (CH)
- ◆ Brainstorming
- ◆ Outlines of papers and projects
- ◆ Revision, multiple revision of drafts  
“Students are led through the process of preparing the final report through a series of revisions that are thoroughly marked, but minimally graded.” (CH 463)
- ◆ Published articles as models
- ◆ Portfolio
- ◆ Progress reports