

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
- ◆ 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 317
Scientific Theory and Practice

BI 306
Environmental Ecology

BI 371
Ecological Methods

BOT 323
Flowering Plants of the World

CH 463
Experimental Chemistry

GEO 427
Volcanology

GEO 462
Geosciences Field Methodology

MTH 333
Fundamental Concepts
of Topology

MTH 338
Non-Euclidean Geometry

PH 403
Research and Thesis

Z 453
Scientific Writing and Behavioral
Observations

Formal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Journal
- ◆ Collaborative Project
- ◆ 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