

# **Students' Writing Success at the University of North Carolina Charlotte:**

## **The Effects of Advanced Placement Exemptions**

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# Purpose of Study

Are students who score a 3 on the Advanced Placement test for Writing well served by exempting First year Writing requirements at University of North Carolina Charlotte?

# Writing Analysis

Code	Count	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Range	Sum	SD	Variance
Composing Processes	115	1	3	2.03	2	2	234	0.84	0.71
Critical Reading	53	1	3	1.96	2	2	104	0.83	0.69
Critical Reflection	113	1	3	2.56	3	2	290	0.65	0.42
Defining Inquiry	20	1	3	2.15	2	2	43	0.81	0.66
Knowledge of Conventions	37	1	3	2.56	3	2	95	0.72	0.53
Rhetorical Knowledge	129	1	3	2.18	2	2	282	0.79	0.63
Take or Skip UWRT	50	1	3	2.46	3	2	123	0.61	0.37
Took UWRT at UNCC	7	1	2	1.85	2	1	13	0.37	0.14
Used/familiar with Atkins Library	37	1	4	2.59	3	3	96	1.27	1.63
Used/familiar with Writing Center at	17	1	3	1.41	1	2	24	0.71	0.50

Fig. 1. Code Statistics, AP Scores of 3

Code	Count	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Range	Sum	SD	Variance
Atkins Library Familiarity and Use	26	1	3	1.19	1	2	31	0.49	0.24
Composing Processes	51	1	3	2.52	3	2	129	0.64	0.41
Critical Reading	34	1	3	2.55	3	2	87	0.61	0.37
Critical Reflection	58	2	3	2.79	3	1	162	0.40	0.16
Defining Inquiry	23	1	3	1.60	2	2	37	0.65	0.43
Familiarity with WRC at UNCC	27	1	3	1.88	2	2	51	0.64	0.41
Knowledge of Conventions	79	2	3	2.78	3	1	220	0.41	0.17
Peer Review	59	1	3	2.18	2	2	129	0.88	0.77
Recommend AP/Exempt UWRT	40	1	3	2.02	2.5	2	81	0.99	0.99
Rhetorical Knowledge	81	1	3	2.69	3	2	218	0.49	0.24
Took UWRT at UNCC	22	1	3	2	2	2	44	0.75	0.57

Fig.2 Code Statistics, AP Scores 4 and 5

# Focus Groups

Most 4s and 5s could accurately define inquiry

Comfortable with using the library databases

Demonstrated keen rhetorical awareness

More than 50% of 3s could not define inquiry

More likely to not be familiar with library and express frustration with research assignments

Demonstrated weaker rhetorical knowledge

# Results and Implications

- 1) Students with an AP score of 3 should not be exempt from FYW.
- 2) Students with AP scores of 3 should be required to participate in additional research and writing practicum provided by UWRT in partnership with Atkins Library, CxC and the WRC.
- 3) Faculty across disciplines should be provided with more support in teaching disciplinary genre and research methods across levels of the major.
- 4) LBST faculty should be provided instruction in how to teach genres in their discipline and/or in theories as well as practices of writing effective reflection assignments.
- 5) All AP students who exempt UWRT would be best served by taking amore advanced writing course, such as WRDS 2101 (Advanced Writing) or WRDS 3201 (The Effective Sentence).