

2003-2004 Writing Assessment Report
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A total of 67 pairs of writing samples have now been evaluated, using the rubric on the fourth page of this report, by a team of eight evaluators on October 4, 2003 and five evaluators on April 3, 2004. Grades of A for a criterion were converted to scores of 4, grades of B to scores of 3 etc. Thus, the maximum score for each category evaluated was 4, and the maximum total score was 20. The freshmen writing samples were taken from ENG 103 courses when students were in their first week of classes at Westminster, and the Tier III samples (abstracts) were taken from classes when students were either juniors or seniors (Fall, 2002, Spring, 2003, and Fall 2003).

Table 1 below provides the mean scores for each of the criteria and for the total score. For example, a mean of 2.5 would correspond to a letter grade of B-/C+. Paired-samples t-tests showed that students significantly improved in every category from their freshman year to their Tier III course (and thus improved significantly in total score), as indicated in the significance column in the table below. Correlational analyses showed that there were statistically significant positive correlations between freshman and Tier III grades on each of the areas evaluated. Thus, students who scored better in content, style, diction, rhetoric, grammar, and total score on their freshmen samples also scored higher on their Tier III samples.

Table 1. Means for Freshman and Tier III Writing Samples

Area Evaluated	Freshmen	Tier III	Significance
Content	2.54	2.75	p = .030
Style	2.53	2.81	p= .002
Diction	2.72	3.05	p=.000
Rhetoric	2.44	2.72	p=.003
Grammar	2.38	2.78	p=.000
Total	12.61	14.13	p=.000