

Central Virginia Community College



Executive Summary

Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) developed its QEP, Building Better Writers, using broad-based input with the goal of enhancing student learning and the environment in which student learning occurs. After examining constituents' input and conducting analyses of institutional, state, and national data, the QEP Committee determined the need for improvement in writing skills especially for developmental English students. Further research provided best practices that led to three main goals for Building Better Writers: (1) Improve learning and writing skills of students in developmental English courses. (2) Improve student success in writing. (3) Increase student engagement in writing. With these goals and the College's mission in mind, the QEP Committee constructed a five-year plan that includes the development of a comprehensive tutor training program, a peer tutor program, and a Writing Center as well as the incorporation of more support services to increase developmental English students' success and engagement.

Directly related to the overall goals are the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), which the QEP Committee established using developmental English faculty's input and objectives from the Virginia Community College System's Developmental English Redesign. The SLOs for Building Better Writers are as follows:

- (1) Identify and compose grammatically and mechanically correct sentences that convey the messages clearly, precisely, and fluently;
- (2) Identify and compose logically developed paragraphs that include topic sentences, relevant supporting sentences, and concluding statements;
- (3) Identify and compose appropriate thesis statements;
- (4) Compose well-developed, coherent, and unified college-level essays that incorporate appropriate and reasoned support and evidence; and
- (5) Apply the conventions of standard written English, including grammar, usage, and mechanics when revising and editing.

To insure the success of Building Better Writers, the College has allocated the necessary resources, established key personnel responsible for the project, and designed a comprehensive assessment plan that provides formative and summative data to govern decisions regarding the plan's progress.

QEP Co-Directors: Cynthia Lofaso, Professor of Psychology, lofasoc@cvcc.vccs.edu
Lana Velez, Assistant Professor of English, velezl@cvcc.vccs.edu